

# NEWSLETTER

February 2016

VOL. IV, NO 1

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## WHERE ARE OUR BRIDGE CLUBS?

### Alpharetta Duplicate Bridge Club

6250 Shiloh Rd. #30  
Back of Building Lower Level  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
Larry Rich: 770-272-2429  
E-mail: [info@alpharettadbc.org](mailto:info@alpharettadbc.org)  
Website: [alpharettadbc.org](http://alpharettadbc.org)

### Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center

5 Dunwoody Park South  
Atlanta, GA 30338  
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)

### 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>

### Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta

5 Dunwoody Park South  
Atlanta, GA 30360  
George Powell: 770-594-1874  
E-mail: [gpowell622@aol.com](mailto:gpowell622@aol.com)  
Website: <http://www.dbaa.us/>

## President's Letter

The first newsletter of the year always gives us the opportunity to acknowledge those DBAA members who reached the top of their respective Ace of Clubs or Mini-McKenney categories. The Ace of Clubs recognizes those of each of the thirteen ACBL ranks who have earned the most points each year playing in clubs. The Mini-McKenney ranks players based on all masterpoints earned in the year. Those who rank high share two important attributes; they play a lot in club and tournament games, and they play well compared to their masterpoint peers.

Now that the DBAA is its own unit, all thirteen unit champs are in the DBAA! There's not enough space to acknowledge all of them here but you can [click here](#) to find the top ten in each category.



Many of our players not only won their respective unit races but did well in District and National Competition:

- Mahadeva Ramnath won District Seven 20-50 masterpoint races for both Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney. He was tops in the ACBL for the Ace of Clubs.
- Mason Barge not only led the District in the 50-100 bracket in both competitions but he also won both ACBL-wide.
- Richard Brown won the Mini-McKenney District Crown in the 100-200 group.
- Duke Bhatia took the District's 200-300 division in both events. Duke won the Ace of Clubs nation-wide for this category.
- Jeff Cathrall led D7 in the 500-1000 category for the Mini-McKenney.
- Sean Gannon topped the District in the Silver Life Master ranking.
- Jim Stogner won the D7 Ace of Clubs race in the 5,000-7,500 competition.
- Of those in the 7,500-10,000 points, Bill Kulbersh not only won both the District's Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney competitions but his 796 points earned in clubs was the highest in the entire ACBL for all categories. See story on page 14.
- Richard Taube outpaced all the District's Platinum and Grand Life Masters in the Ace of Clubs race.

I look forward to recognizing all the Unit 253 category winners during the Sunday Swiss at our DBAA sectional later this month.

Marty Nathan

## Bridge Clubs

### **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)

### **Midtown Bridge Club**

First Presbyterian Church (Wednesday)  
1328 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
Ansley Golf Club (Friday)  
196 Montgomery Ferry Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
Alvin Daigle Jr.: 770-313-5124  
E-mail: [midtownbridge30309@gmail.com](mailto:midtownbridge30309@gmail.com)

### **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:  
[priscilla@ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com](mailto:priscilla@ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com)  
Website: [ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com](http://ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com)

### **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)

## DBAA Championship Events

by Roz Howell



At its January 10 meeting, the DBAA board (Unit 253) approved six Championship events to be added annually to our Sectional tournaments.

At the upcoming February tourney, we will have a two-session Open Pairs event on Saturday. We will also experiment with a concurrent championship event for B pairs. In 2017, we will add a NLM pairs Championship to the Winter Sectional schedule.

At our Summer Sectional – this year it's June 15-19 – the DBAA will sponsor our first KO Teams Championship. In 2017, we will add a "Friendship Game" championship to the lineup. This event requires that a Life Master play with a Non-Life Master. We expect this will be the culmination of the Mentor Program that will take place each May.

The Fall Sectional will host a two-session Open Swiss Teams Championship on Sunday and a concurrent Swiss Championship for NLM's.

We will of course continue to host Atlanta Junior Bridge's separate Pairs and KO championships each year.

We welcome your thoughts on our DBAA championship lineup.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and plan to play in those that are open to you.

## Board Meetings

DBAA/Unit 253 Board meetings are open to all members. Come see how hard we all work to enhance your enjoyment of bridge through our various activities and programs. You might even find an opportunity to volunteer. Meetings are held Saturday mornings at Bridge Club of Atlanta from 9:30 to 11:30, unless otherwise noted. The tentative schedule for 2016 meetings is as follows:

February 20	May 21	August 27
April 9	July 9	October 10
		December 10

## Tournament News

by Ron Torre



February is here and that can only mean that it is SuperSectional time in Roswell. The games begin February 24; you can find the [schedule here](#).

This year there will be some changes at Roswell. Over the years all expenses associated with the tournament have risen – director fees, ACBL Fees, rent and associate costs – yet the entry fee has remained at \$10. While the table fees remain the same, the Roswell Ramblers will now charge for a box lunch. There should be a marked improvement in food preparation, as the Ramblers have hired a professional chef. Players have the option of “brown bagging” it, going out to a fast food restaurant – but the schedule is tight -- or buying their lunch from the Ramblers. Your entry will include a \$1 chit to offset your lunch or snack cost. Refreshments (coffee and sodas) will still be FREE.

The tournament schedule will not change much, but on Saturday, February 27 we'll kick off annual DBAA championships with a two-session morning/afternoon Open Pairs competition. Prior to 10:00 AM, entries will be sold for this two session event. Players not wishing to compete against the “sharks” may play in the B (under 3000 points) section of the event. The winners will have their names placed on a plaque that will be exhibited at a local club. We will of course still accommodate single session pairs.

*Editor's note: Ron wouldn't tell you but we came perilously close to losing this sectional altogether. He warded off another rent increase and was able to get a much more reasonable price for the box lunches than we were originally offered. Hats off to Ron for a job well done.*

You have told us you don't want to be driving home late at night. Evening games will now start at 7PM, a half hour earlier than before.

As always, lower lot parking is at a premium since many of our members can't readily handle stairs. If you are able, please park in the upper lot at the end of Dobb Drive off Oxbo Road.

If you have any problem at the sectional, please bring it to my attention. I'll do my best to fix it.

Looking forward to seeing you at the tables.

## Who's Your Opponent?

by Janet Edwards

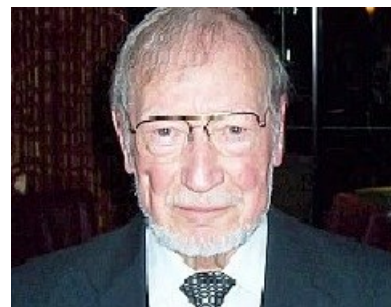


We have in the midst of our Atlanta bridge community many who have traveled and lived overseas. Among them is Mike Michel who from 1968 to 1982 lived and worked in some of the most remote corners of the globe. Between his career assignments and his own touring, Mike has been on 6 continents, has spent at least 1 night and a day in 62 countries from the Arctic to the tip of S. America, driven across the US from north to south and east to west and visited some 50 or so of our own National Parks. Mike is a collector of beautiful local crafts from his travels as well as impressions and accounts of our ever changing world.

A native Atlantan, Mike graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering. He went to work for Lockheed Aircraft. In 1966, Mike joined their Field Service Department, where he was part of the team responsible for providing maintenance support and training on C-130 aircraft purchased by foreign governments and companies. His first overseas assignment came in 1968 to Rawalpindi, Pakistan, an undeveloped place with few modern conveniences or natural resources and a great deal of suspicion of Americans. Despite being followed and having his mail opened, he was able to travel around the country in his company VW to such places as the Khyber Pass, Swat and Peshawar. Along the way he saw many interesting sights including Indian temples on whose walls the natives dried cow dung.

After a year in Pakistan, Mike spent 4 years in Saudi Arabia, which in the early 70's according to Mike was surprisingly undeveloped. His wife, Mimi, joined him for this assignment. They lived in a compound and since women were not allowed to drive, a bus was provided to take the wives to the local market. Instead of having shopping carts, young Bedouin boys, called "basket boys", would follow the shoppers with a basket, which the ladies would drop their items into and the boys would deliver to the bus.

In 1972, the Michels were transferred to Iran. As surprising as it might seem to us today, they found Iran of that time to be a wonderful place to live, quite modern and progressive. Next came a year in Abu Dhabi, followed by two years in La Paz, Bolivia; and another year in Jakarta, Indonesia. His last long term post was for two years to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His temporary assignments included a three month stay in Guam and a short stint to the Sudan with a special team organized by the Defense Department during the Carter administration. Here he was treated to a hair-raising demonstration of the fire power of a Russian MIG! Throughout his time working abroad, Mike traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Islands.



After retirement, the Michels settled down in Sandy Springs where Mike enjoyed having time to pursue his other interests, including flying, marksmanship, ham radio and bridge. He volunteered as a bridge teacher at the Sandy Springs Senior center for several years, introducing some of our area's regular players, including his current partner Dennis Kowalzyk, to the opponents. As a Bronze Life Master, Mike enjoys both the social and intellectual aspects of duplicate.

Mike is a quintessential Southern gentleman who adds humor and class to our Atlanta bridge community. He is full of interesting tidbits, too many to include here. When you see him in his patch covered vest, strike up a conversation! You will be sure to have an interesting chat and the chance to learn something new.

## Limited Games – Up to 500 MPs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Roswell DBC</b></p> <p>11:00 0-500</p>	<p><b>Alpharetta DBC</b></p> <p>12:00 0-500</p>	<p><b>Atlanta DBC</b></p> <p>1:00 0-199 (12:30 lesson)</p>	<p><b>Ruff'n Sluff</b></p> <p>10:30 0-20 (10:00 lesson)</p>	<p><b>Alpharetta DBC</b></p> <p>12:00 0-500</p>	<p><b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b></p> <p>12:00 0-50</p>
	<p><b>Ruff'n Sluff</b></p> <p>7:30 0-300 (7:00 lesson)</p>	<p><b>Ruff'n Sluff</b></p> <p>10:30 0-20 (10:00 lesson)</p>		<p><b>Atlanta DBC</b></p> <p>11:00 0-299</p>	
				<p><b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b></p> <p>10:00 0-50</p>	

You can find the web pages for each club – including phone numbers, addresses and directions – starting on [page 1](#) of this newsletter or on our web page at [www.dbaa.us](http://www.dbaa.us). 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.



## New Beginner Classes

Have a friend or neighbor interested in learning to play bridge? There will be a class starting February 17 and running through March 23 at Bridge Club of Atlanta. The class is on Wednesday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:30am and the cost is \$110. Tell your friends to contact Sam Marks at 770-354-6033 or [sam@sammarksbridge.com](mailto:sam@sammarksbridge.com).

Melissa Bernhardt and Merrel Hattink will teach a late Monday afternoon men's only class from February 7 through March 20, also at Bridge Club of Atlanta. Contact Merrel at [mchattink@gmail.com](mailto:mchattink@gmail.com) to register.

*Editor's note: We generally don't cover club events – we only have so much space – but we are always pleased to help clubs and teachers promote beginning bridge classes. The future of the game depends on them.*

## Tournament Schedule

February 2016 – January 2017

Atlanta offers players so many opportunities to play in tournaments and earn those coveted pigmented points. Here's what's on tap for the upcoming year.

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

Feb 1-7	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
Feb 24-28	Atlanta Sectional	* Roswell Adult Recreation Center
+ May 13-15	NLM Sectional	Ruff 'n Sluff Bridge Club
+ June 15-19	DBAA Sectional	** Marriott Perimeter Center
Aug 22-28	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
Aug 30-Sept 5	Atlanta Regional	Crown Plaza Ravinia
Nov 9-13	DBAA Sectional	** Marriott Perimeter Center
Dec 12-18	District 7 ST@C	Your Club

- \* Remember that parking is always at a premium in Roswell.  
If you are able to walk, please park in the upper lot.
- \*\* New Location
- + Revised date



## Election Report

by Joan Sheldon, Nominating Committee Chair and  
Elyse Mintz, Election Committee Chair

The election for the DBAA Board (Unit 253) would have taken place at the Roswell sectional in February. However, since only one person ran for each Officer/Director position, the following have been declared by acclamation as the new DBAA Board for 2016/2017:

President: Marty Nathan	Vice President: Rob Epstein		
Secretary: Jan Noll	Treasurer: Pete Martin		
Directors: Becky Butler	Joan Duffy	Jack Feagin	Roz Howell
Allison Milhem	Josie Mitchell	Dick Myers	Janice Ripley

Thanks for their service to outgoing Board members Vicki Bell, Judy Fendrick and George Powell. Congratulations, and thanks for volunteering, to new officers/board members Rob Epstein, Pete Martin and Allison Milhem.

Thanks also to Ronnie Stoessel and Susan Wolfe for serving on the Nominating Committee as well as the several members who had volunteered to serve on the Election Committee.

# Godfrey's Grand Slam Bridge Benefit

May 15, 2016

Rollins School of Public Health

## Supporting The Center For Spina Bifida

We are excited to present **Frank Stewart**, celebrated bridge columnist and author, as the featured guest.



Much work has been accomplished to help the cause of eliminating Spina Bifida throughout the world, but much remains to be done and you can help! Plan to attend the next Godfrey's Grand Slam Bridge Benefit. Enjoy an afternoon of bridge with speaker, Frank Stewart and support this important cause! If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Janet Edwards or Brenda Shavin at [trumpspinabifida@gmail.com](mailto:trumpspinabifida@gmail.com).

## May is Mentoring Month

by Joan Duffy & Janice Ripley

Heads Up!! The DBAA is once again sponsoring this fun program where a Life Master plays with a Non-Life Master. What a terrific opportunity for both players to share friendship and knowledge of the game. It's not too early to line up partnerships and make plans to participate in this event. As time gets closer, all of the area clubs will have sign-up sheets and answers to your questions. Need info now? Contact:

Joan Duffy, [chapman.duffy44@gmail.com](mailto:chapman.duffy44@gmail.com) or  
Janice Ripley, [bridge4jr@gmail.com](mailto:bridge4jr@gmail.com)

## The Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta (DBAA)

will hold its

### Annual Membership Meeting

on

**Sunday, February 28**

(during the lunch break)

at the Roswell Sectional Tournament  
Roswell Adult Recreation Center  
830 Grimes Bridge Road

The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an update of the status of DBAA's activities and financial position.



## DBAA Game Schedule

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

Feb 3	District 7 ST@C
Feb 10	ACBL Charity (2x)
Feb 17	Regular Game and Optional GNT
Feb 24	NO GAME— DBAA Sectional
Mar 2	Regular Game
Mar 9	Local Charity (2x)
Mar 16	Regular Game
Mar 23	GNT Qualifier (Teams Only)
Mar 30	Club Championship (2x) - COR Party
Apr 6	ACBL Charity (2x)
Apr 13	Local Charity (2x)
Apr 20	ACBL Charity (2x) and Last-Chance Optionable GNT
Apr 27	Local Charity (2x)

## Upcoming Special Games

The ACBL offers many special games to clubs, usually including expert hand analyses. Here's what is on tap for the upcoming three months.

Tuesday, February 2 (day)	Unit Championship
Saturday, February 6 (afternoon)	* ACBL-wide International Fund Game
Wednesday, February 17 (day)	Unit Championship
Saturday, February 20 (day)	Unit Championship
Sunday, February 21 (day) - Swiss	Unit Championship
Thursday, March 3 (day)	Unit Championship
Saturday, March 5 (day)	Unit Championship
Monday, March 7 (afternoon)	* ACBL-wide Senior Game
Wednesday, March 23 (day)	Unit Championship
Friday, March 25 (day)	Unit Championship
Monday, March 28 (day)	Unit Championship
Thursday, April 14 (morning)	* ACBL-wide Charity Game

\*Includes hand records and expert analyses

Clubs can run Charity Club Championships anytime during April.

## Rebidding after Partner's Support Double

*Editor's note: Support Double is a convention used by opener to show exactly three-card support for Responder's major when fourth hand intervenes. Most play this through 2♥.*

You hold ♠ 83, ♥ 10873, ♦ 73, ♣ KQJ83. Your partner opens 1♦ and you respond 1♥. LHO bids 1♠, and your partner makes a support double, showing exactly three hearts. What is your rebid?

The general principle, which turns normal bidding on its head, is that ***a new minor suit by responder after a support double is not forcing, and may be very weak.*** It simply *denies* a five-card major, shows a five-card suit, and is an attempt to find a better place to play.

Why is this? A thorough discussion of this issue appears in Mike Lawrence's book, *Double! New Meanings for an Old Bid*. The problem (you may not yet have realized you had one!) is that you and partner have NOT, repeat NOT, established an 8-card fit. There may be an 8-card fit in clubs, but there decidedly is not one in hearts. As Lawrence muses, you actually HATE the idea of playing in hearts (or should, with those awful hearts). Yet you are so weak that you can't bid again if 2♣ is forcing. Partner may bid above 2♥, and you will almost surely be beyond your safety level.

Because of the lack of a known 8-card fit, the following ***special rules apply in support double situations*** (hearts is used in this example but the same rules apply if Responder had bid 1♠):

A new minor suit is usually five cards long, *denies* five hearts, and is non-forcing. It is **NEVER** a game try in hearts.

A rebid of 2♥ is weak. It may contain five hearts, but may **NOT**. The hearts are usually decent. Be very cautious about bidding over it without significant extra values. For example, Responder might rebid 2♥ with ♠ 843, ♥ AJ87, ♦ 86, ♣ J984, just 6 HCPs.

A jump in hearts confirms five hearts, and ***is the ONLY game try available in hearts.***

An invitational hand without 5 hearts can choose between a 2NT bid, a jump in partner's suit, and a jump to the three-level in a new 5-card or longer suit. These bids can be passed.

A cue bid is the normal game-forcing bid **WITHOUT** five hearts. It is seeking additional info from partner in order to make an informed game decision.

[Continued on p. 11](#)

A game-forcing hand with five hearts can choose between 4♥ (no interest in slam), a splinter bid (slam interest, with shortness), and a cue bid, followed by 4♥ (slam interest, with no shortness).

Here is a complete schedule of your potential rebids after the example above – 1♦ - P – 1♥ - 1♠; X - P; partner made a support double:

1NT	Weak, lacking 5 hearts. Promises stopper in opponent's suit.
2♣	Weak, lacking 5 hearts. Decent 5-card suit (i.e., not partner's suit), no interest in playing a 4-3 major suit fit; (see the example).
2♦	Weak, lacking 5 hearts. Suggests 4+ diamonds (i.e., partner's suit) but could be 3 on a bad day.
2♥	Weak, does NOT promise 5 hearts; may be a least of evils signoff on an extremely weak hand. See 2 <sup>nd</sup> example.
2♠	Cue-bidding the opponent's suit is game-forcing. This is the bid you will use most often with a good hand but only 4 hearts, seeking more input from partner. A strong hand with 5 hearts can use this bid to explore for slam, later bidding hearts again to show the 8-card fit.
2NT	Natural and invitational, denying 5 hearts.
3♣	Invitational values with 5+ clubs, but denying 5 hearts
3♦	Invitational values with 5+ (usually) diamonds but denying 5 hearts.
3♥	Invitational values with 5+ hearts.
3♠, 4♣ 4♦	Game forcing splinter, showing shortness in suit and 5+ hearts. Shows slam interest. See 4♥ below to contrast.
4♥	Game values with 5+ hearts, no interest in slam.

Note that I only said the bid of a new *minor* is non-forcing. Therefore 1♦-P-1♠-2♣; X (support)-P-2♥ IS forcing. We care much more about majors! Responder could simply bid 2♠ with a weak hand and 4 hearts, knowing spades provides an 8-card fit.

*Thanks to Mike Sheldon for contributing this excellent discussion on a subject that humbles many fine players.*

## NAP District Final Results

North American Pairs (NAP) is one of two ACBL national events – Grand National Teams being the other – that begin in clubs. There are three separate flights: Open, 0-2500 and NLM<500 points.

From June through August members qualify in NAP club games, which offer a huge combination of red and black points, for the right to compete in the District finals. Those finals are held in November at various locations, including Atlanta for the Non-Life Master flight.

Congratulations to the local players who qualified for the national finals:

Flight A: Olin Hubert finished third, playing with Hugh Brown from South Carolina

Flight B: No qualifications, most unusual for Atlanta

Flight C: Robert Thorstad won the district event (held at three different locations for this flight), playing with Benjamin Kompa from Chapel Hill. Frank Pritchard and Thomas Slater finished second, giving Atlanta a great showing in this NLM flight.

All win a trip, subsidized by the ACBL and/or District 7, to the national finals in Reno next month. Wish them good luck!

## Alpharetta Youth Shines

by Carolyn Eckert



Eight of Atlanta's junior players spent a good part of winter break playing bridge. Two teams of youth players from the Alpharetta area entered the United States Bridge Federation Trials. The trials were held in late December in Atlanta for the right to represent the country at the world championships later this year. Competitors were required to go through a year of on-line training just to earn the right to compete. While neither of our teams won the event, they gained valuable experience that should suit them well for future play. One team consisted of Caleb Colburn, Kunal Vohra, Alec Zhan and Vincent Zhu. Pavan Bhardwaj, Anuj Das, Sidhesh Desai and Jeff Zhan made up the other team. Experts Brady Richter from New Jersey and Arjun Dhir from Alpharetta worked with them for the last year and a half while they continue training in the junior program with Carolyn Eckert.

Arjun Dhir and Sean Gannon competed on separate teams in the under 26 event.

There was nevertheless one winner from Atlanta. For the first time the USA will field an under 15 team at the world championships. Based on his fine play in the trials, thirteen year old Kunal Vohra was selected by the USBF to be a member of that team which will compete for *Koç University Trophy* in Salsomaggiore, Italy in early August.



Congratulations to all these fine young players.

## ACBL Honorary Member of the Year

by Becky Butler



At the Fall NABC, the ACBL Board of Directors awarded Patty Tucker the 2016 Honorary Member of the Year Award for her overall contributions to the game. She is now on a list of celebrated members such as Oswald Jacoby, Easley Blackwood, Edgar Kaplan and Bob Hamman. Among the attributes the ACBL recognizes for this award is “a person who has given freely of time and ability, without thought of reward, and in the interest and welfare of the League.” That makes Patty the perfect choice. The ACBL acknowledged many of Patty’s accomplishments. In 2010, Patty created the Learn Bridge in a Day?© program that has become a model for the ACBL. Much earlier she founded Atlanta Junior Bridge and has been dedicated to developing junior bridge nationwide. She is a wonderful teacher and perennial volunteer and is truly dedicated to sharing her love for the game.

In recognition of Patty’s award, she will receive free entries for one year at NABC events and a Letter of Recognition from the Board of Directors. Look for the article about Patty in an upcoming *Bridge Bulletin*.

We are proud of Patty for this prestigious honor and applaud her unselfish dedication.



### Kudos

**Priscilla Smith** is a 2015 Star Recruiter. We mentioned the same for Sam Marks last month, and it’s a shame we had to read the *Bridge Bulletin* to learn about Priscilla’s recruiting over 100 new members last year. We believe Atlanta is the only area with two such stars.

**Bob Fendrick** is Atlanta’s newest Grand Life Master, giving us now four in all. (Randy Pettit, Kevin Collins and Tom Carmichael are the others.) Bob reached the 10,000 point level in a January DBAA Wednesday night game, qualifying him as a Platinum Life Master. His win in the 2012 NABC Senior Swiss makes him a Grand Life Master.

### 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 to bring 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).

## **Bill Kulbersh Top Masterpoint Earner for 2015**

by Jenny Magid



The Ace of Clubs Award annually recognizes the top masterpoint earners nationally in club games only. Bill Kulbersh was the top point winner in the entire ACBL in 2015, not just for his rank but for all categories.

Bill's masterpoint total for 2015 was an impressive 1171.44. It was however his 796.31 points earned in clubs that gave him the Ace of Clubs victory. He bested his nearest rival by well over 100 points.

Bill started playing bridge in 1958 at the age of ten. He has never taken a formal lesson and attributes his knowledge and love of the game to his teachers and mentors, namely his parents.

When asked if he could offer any advice to learning players, he did not hesitate in answering.

1. Keep it simple.
2. Learn the basics.
3. If you want to sharpen your skills, think about playing in the open game.

Bill's next personal goal is to become a Platinum Life Master; that means amassing 10,000 points. The high standard of bridge that Bill is playing ensures that he'll reach this milestone in the not too distant future.

Congratulations and good luck to a true gentleman who exemplifies what this wonderful game stands for.

## Change of Rank Honorees

by Becky Butler



The DBAA looks forward honoring all those members who changed rank during 2015. During March the DBAA will sponsor a change of rank party at each participating club. Those who moved up any rank – from Junior Master to Grand Life Master – are entitled to ONE free play at ONE of these Parties. Thank you to our participating clubs for taking the extra time and effort to help us recognize those who are moving up in the world of bridge.

Listed below is the schedule for the parties. You may play in all the games but your free play can only be used one time.

### 2016 DBAA CHANGE OF RANK PARTIES

CLUB	DAY	DATE
Alpharetta DBC	Friday	March 18
Atlanta DBC	Saturday	March 5
Bridge Club of Atlanta	Thursday	March 8
DBAA	Wednesday	March 30
Midtown BC	Friday	March 4
Roswell DBC	Friday	March 11
Ruff 'N Sluff BC	Tuesday	March 22

Each club will received a list of all those who changed rank during 2015. If you are not sure if you did, just check with any club manager.

Congratulations to all who achieve a new rank last year. We hope to see you at one (or more) of the parties above.