

NEWSLETTER

August 2016

VOL. IV, NO 3

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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
Website: alpharettadbc.org

Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center

5 Dunwoody Park South
Atlanta, GA 30338
Dan Papineau: 770-248-0306
E-mail: atlantaduplicate@bellsouth.net
Website: atlantaduplicatebridgeclub.com

Bridge Club of Atlanta

4920 Roswell Road., Suite 33
Atlanta, GA 30342
Sam Marks: 678-812-4324
E-mail: sam@sammarksbridge.com
Website: bridgeclubatlanta.com

Dan's Duplicate Atlanta North

1715 Millside Terrace
Dacula, GA 30019
Dan Osburn: 678-827-1776
E-mail: 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
Website: <http://www.dbaa.us/>

President's Letter

Myth Busting

Like so many enterprises, bridge is filled with its own myths. The July *Bulletin* listed several from history. I'd like to debunk some of the current ones.



- “Eight ever, nine never”

This maxim suggests that if you have a nine-card fit missing the queen, you should play the ace and king (hoping the queen will drop) rather than finesse. Statistically this does have some merit but not much. Playing to drop the queen is less than 2% better than finessing if you have no information about the opponent's distribution. But you always have some information: the opening lead, perhaps some bidding, maybe the play up to this critical point. When you do have information suggesting one opponent has more length than his partner in another suit, the odds switch to finessing against the hand with more “vacant spaces”. This is often cited as the “Theory of Empty Spaces.” To be clear, “theory” here is not like aliens in Roswell but rather more like the theory of gravity. You can see an example from Godfrey's Grand Slam event in Frank Stewart's July 25 bridge column at <https://www.baronbarclay.com/category/July2016>.

- “Half of bridge is getting to the right contract. Therefore learning better bidding should be your first priority.”

Getting to the right contract is important but no more so than getting all your tricks on defense or learning the proper techniques of play. If “better bidding” means getting a thorough understanding of the basics – Is that bid forcing? What are the follow up bids in that convention I just learned? – I agree that should be a point of emphasis for all players. All too often, however, “better bidding” means learning more conventions. Truth be told, after the first ten or so basic ones, the others don't occur enough to matter much. There's a lot of room for improvement in your declarer play and especially your defense. Mine too.

[Continued on p.10](#)

Bridge Clubs

KSU Bridge Club

KSU Center
3333 Busbee Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30144
Janice Ripley: 770-726-9881
E-mail: 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

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
Website: billsbridge.com

Ruff 'n Sluff Bridge Club

1809 Roswell Rd.
Marietta, GA 30062
Priscilla Smith: 770-973-7717
E-mail:
priscilla@ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com
Website: ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com

Silver Belles and Beaus

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

Hospitality Suite at the Labor Day Regional

by Becky Butler

The Labor Day Regional schedule is different this year, with the primary events being played at 10:00 and 2:30. (Thanks, Jack!) Our hospitality suite – *tentatively* assigned as Room 1521 – therefore will be open following the afternoon session on most days. We will also open after some evenings for lighter snacks. Check the bulletin each day for the menu and times. We plan to have nice home cooked hors d'oeuvres and specialty drinks, beer and wine, and other refreshments every day. Plan to visit before fighting the Atlanta traffic or before playing in the evening session. I hope to see you there.



I'm thrilled to have such a great crew helping me out: Helen Browdy, Jeff Cathrall, Missy Coy, Sikina Ehmer, Jan Noll, Betsy Stanton, and Arlene Tauber.

The Longest Day

by Becky Butler



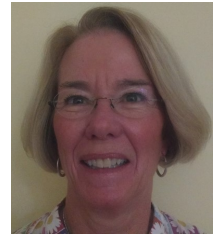
Arlene Tauber (left)
Helen Browdy

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Longest Day, the ACBL's feature program in support of Alzheimer's research. For the third consecutive year, Captains Arlene Tauber and Helen Browdy were instrumental in making this day a success in Atlanta. Sam Marks had five games at the BCA plus a Saturday night Swiss. Time, money, prizes and food were donated by many. Abbie and Marty Margolies opened their home for a special evening of appetizers and desserts. Patty Tucker engaged the juniors to play for donations based on games played. Helen and Arlene regret that they can't name everyone here who contributed to make this such a success. The BCA Team raised over \$80,000, the second largest amount in the country. The money raised stays in Georgia for Alzheimer's work.

Godfrey's Grand Slam Update

by Janet Edwards

On the morning of Sunday, May 18, 2016, a beautiful, sunny and clear day in Atlanta, 100 DBAA members and friends enjoyed the skyline view from the Klamon Room of the Claudia Nance Rollins Building at Emory University. They had come together to be a part of the second Godfrey's Grand Slam Bridge Benefit, held to support the efforts of fellow bridge player Godfrey Oakley's Center for Spina Bifida Prevention, a part of the Rollins School of Public Health.



As the festively decorated room began to fill, players enjoyed snacks, greeted friends, found their tables and began perusing the 30+ items available for bidding in the silent auction. Some lively competition had already begun and the cards hadn't even been dealt! The special guest of the day, Frank Stewart, expert bridge author and syndicated columnist who donated his time to be at the event, treated the crowd to a stimulating and thought provoking lesson on how to read your opponents cards. This was followed by a sanctioned duplicate game, expertly organized and directed by Ina Parry. All through the day players were tracking their bids hoping to score the opportunity to partner with or take lessons from 30 or so of our best and favorite Atlanta area players and teachers!

Brenda Shavin and Janet Edwards, co-chairs of the event, would like to thank their committee, the auction donors, and the DBAA for their help in organizing the bridge benefit. Godfrey Oakley especially wants to thank all those in the Atlanta bridge community who made the event such a fun and fund-raising success. The event raised close to \$34,000! He says that with your continued support, "One day no child in the world will develop folic acid preventable spina bifida and anencephaly." If you would like to make a donation to help Godfrey continue his important work please follow this link www.sph.emory.edu/giving. Click on the "Give Now" tab on the upper right and follow the instructions for giving. The Center for Spina Bifida can be found in the "Selected Designations" list.



Frank Stewart gives an insightful lecture for Godfrey's Grand Slam.

“Who’s Your Opponent”

by Janet Edwards

THE DBAA’S MARATHONS MAN – Dick Arildsen

Our Opp of the Month is a study in what a person can accomplish when they take it one step at a time – literally! Since 1984 Dick Arildsen has run a total of 20,000 miles! That’s equal to over 769 marathons! Or, to think about it another way, if he had started in Atlanta, he could have run to Jakarta, Indonesia and back again or made two round trips to Buenos Aires! As if that isn’t enough, since 1991 he has pedaled his way through 30,000 more miles! This is more than the distance around the equator and is the equivalent of over 13.5 Tours de France! And, to top this off Dick is still racking up the miles, wearing out sneakers and using up tire treads!



A proud Hawkeye, Dick was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1957 and moved to Bloomington, Illinois where he worked in auditing for State Farm Insurance Co. and where he and his wife raised their 2 daughters. He retired in 1994 and later moved to Atlanta from Cedar Falls, Iowa, after his wife died, to be closer to his daughters and granddaughter.

Dick’s quest for physical fitness began in earnest in 1984 after collapsing at work and being told that he had high blood pressure. The company doctor suggested exercise and a salt free diet, advice that Dick took to heart and ran with, pun intended, never looking back. At the tender age of 84 (I made him show me his driver’s license to prove this!) he is a testament to the benefits of staying active. He continues to run four days a week and bike two days a week. On the seventh day he crashes! Dick especially enjoys the biking trails here in Atlanta.

Once a golfer Dick gave up the links in 1991 after hitting a hole in one and realizing that he couldn’t even see it go in the cup! It was then that he took up bridge. Always determined and resourceful, he learned to play using the ACBL Bridge Series on Bidding & Play of the Hand in the 21st Century. Naturally, he enjoys the mental challenges and competitive nature of the game, but the best part for him is the great social contacts that it provides. He became a member of ACBL in 2013 after moving to Atlanta and can be found enjoying the game at the Atlantic Duplicate Bridge Center and the Bridge Club of Atlanta. These days he focuses on Audrey Grant’s KISS method – Keep It Simple, Stupid – and says that this is his favorite convention.

Dick is a great addition to the Atlanta Bridge community. His positive outlook and perspective come through in everything he does. He is definitely a people person, enjoying the company of his family, friends and fellow bridge players. Word is that he is quick to lend a hand whenever and wherever one is needed. He says his goal “is to take life one day at a time, enjoying Faith, Family & Friends – in that order!” - a worthy objective for sure. We hope that he plans to keep inspiring us by continuing to log in those miles, too! Who knows how far he might go from here!



Sportsperson of the Year

by Roz Howell

The Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta (DBAA) has established an annual award for the Sportsperson of the Year (SPOTY). This person is honored for their **admirable ethical behavior and strong sense of fair play over an extended period of time and for their outstanding pleasant and gracious comportment at the table.**



The award is available to any member of the DBAA regardless of their level of achievement in bridge. Each year the SPOTY will be awarded free plays for all of the DBAA Sectional tournaments in the following calendar year and a certificate so stating. In addition, his/her name will be added to a large plaque to be displayed with all the DBAA honorees.

Nominations for the 2016 Sportsperson of the Year are open now. Any DBAA player may nominate a candidate. Nominations must be received by the SPOTY Committee no later than October 1. You may email or snail mail your nominations to any of the committee members listed below. DBAA board members, SPOTY committee members and former winners are not eligible.

A successful nomination will refer to the criteria highlighted above and will include specific examples. Generally, it should be no more than one page, typed or hand written. Voting will be by the DBAA Board at its scheduled October 15 meeting.

Those members of the DBAA area who were honored at SPOTY while members of Unit 114 are included in the list of DBAA SPOTY winners. Past winners still living in our area are:

2013 Mike Sheldon	2012 Priscilla Smith & Ron Torre
2011 Mike Kovacich	2010 Josie Mitchell
2009 Carey Snider	2007 Claudia Feagin
2000 Patty Tucker	1990 Kevin Collins
1985 Sara Medlin	1983 Jack Feagin
1982 Roger Roemmich	1979 Myldred Kelly
1975 Bob Duval	

Please give this outstanding honor your serious attention and send your nominations as soon as possible to any of us:

Roz Howell

rozrhowell@gmail.com

Janice Ripley

bridge4jr@gmail.com

Rich Brody

brodyrh2@gmail.com

Inviting All Social Bridge Players

by Sue Williams

The DBAA will once again host a **FREE event to introduce duplicate bridge to social bridge players on Tuesday, August 30** (the morning of the Labor Day Regional's first day).

What: Duplicate Game for Social Bridge Players

Date: Tuesday, August 30

Time: 10:00am - 12:30pm

Where: Crowne Plaza Ravinia Hotel

4365 Ashford Dunwoody Road

Dunwoody, GA 30346

Do you have any social bridge playing friends who might want to learn the basics of duplicate bridge in a fun environment? Of course you do. Here's their chance.

As we do every couple of years, the DBAA will host a FREE introductory session on Tuesday morning, August 30, at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia Hotel – before the Labor Day Regional gets underway later that day.

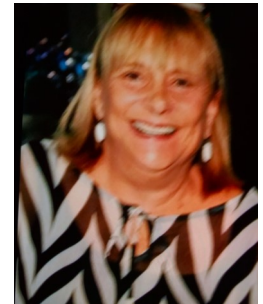
We will introduce social bridge players to the mechanics of the game in a morning they are bound to enjoy. First, participants will be divided into appropriate levels depending upon bridge experience. Once the basics are taught, players will play a sanctioned ACBL game with masterpoints for the winners! Players will also receive a goody bag filled with information to help them get started, to find a club or teacher. Refreshments and door prizes will add to the fun.

As a result of past sessions, we have had many new players join the ranks of duplicate bridge enthusiasts!

ALERT: We need your help! TELL A FRIEND about this event. It will be fun, low-key and participants will be provided a FREE PLAY to a 0-50 game at the Regional Tournament, as well as a Free Play for any game at a participating local club.

We prefer that players sign up by sending an email to Sue Williams, szw2584@gmail.com; however, walk-ins are welcome, if seats are available!

Volunteers will be needed for Registration (9:00am-10am) and for Event Assistance (9:30am-12:30am). A few volunteers may be needed to assemble the goody bags. To volunteer, please email Sue Williams at szw2584@gmail.com or 678-642-6189. You can volunteer and still be available to play in the Regional the first day!!!



Bridge Hand

Holmes and Watson



Holmes and Watson arrive at the club and are assigned to table 2 North/South. The waiter approaches and as Holmes lights his pipe, he asks for a sherry for himself and Watson. The game is going swimmingly with nary a mention by Holmes of any mistakes, until board 27 – the last hand of the night – arrives and Holmes and Watson quickly bid to 3NT. This is what Holmes sees:

West leads the ♥4. Holmes, as he is prone to do before playing a hand, places his cards face-down on the table, leans back while puffing his pipe and considers the hand. Seemingly in a trance, he suddenly perks up and dispenses with the hand as quickly as a rabbit can run. “Holmes, no other pair made 3NT,” comments

Lord Cambridge. “How did you know how to play the diamonds?” “Well, your lord, it is quite elementary. Quite.

♠ Q 6
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K 8 7 4 2
♣ A K J

“The clues were all around. One only needed to read them. I counted my winners – something too few players do – and noted that I had a spade, a heart and three clubs and thus needed four diamond tricks to make my bid. I needed to find the how your hands were distributed.

N
W E
S

“My first problem was whether to take the heart or to duck. You led your fourth best heart and Lady Baskerville played the queen. The best test, as you know, Lord Cambridge, in deciding whether to duck, is knowing how many tricks the opponents can run when they get in. In this case, three hearts and a diamond. Secondly I certainly did not want a spade shift, for that and then a heart continuation would provide a five tricks for the defense. A good defender such as Lady B. would have found that switch. So I took the ace at trick one.

♠ A 8 3
♥ A 10 2
♦ Q 9 6 3
♣ Q 10 4

“For you to have made such a risky opening lead, one could safely surmise that you did not have another 4-card or 5-card suit that offered anything better. Since you have led from your 4-card suit, I surmised that you had a balanced hand, most likely 3-4-3-3. Attaching the percentages to this hand, you were three times as likely to hold the ♦A, as Lady B. held but one, And the odds were further three to one that she held the ace, jack or ten.

“I entered dummy via a club, led the ♦2 and Lady B. played the ♦J. I covered and you won the Ace and cashed, as expected, your three heart tricks. You came back a club which I won in my hand, Buoyed by restricted choice along with my assumption that Lady B. held but one diamond, I played to the ♦8. It won whilst the king dropped your ♦10. You see, Lord Chesterfield, when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.’

The four hands were:

♠ Q 6	♠ J 9 7 5 2
♥ 7 5 3	♥ Q 9 6
♦ K 8 7 4 2	♦ J
♣ A K J	♣ 8 7 6 2
♠ K 10 4	♠ A 8 3
♥ K J 8 4	♥ A 10 2
♦ A 10 5	♦ Q 9 6 3
♣ 9 5 3	♣ Q 10 4

Thanks to Dave Zeckets for this month's bridge hand.

Limited Games – Up to 500 MPs

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

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. 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.

Old Free Play Coupons

When the DBAA became Unit 253 in April 2015, our members were still holding coupons for club free plays issued by Unit 114. The DBAA has honored those free plays. We will continue to do so until December 31, 2016. Drag them out of that “miscellaneous” drawer in your kitchen or your jewelry box and use them this year. To be clear, this expiration date does NOT apply to any free plays issued by the DBAA (Unit 253). They either will have no expiration date or one will be noted on the certificate.



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 remaining 2016 meetings is as follows:

August 27

October 15

December 10

Upcoming Special Games

DBAA Game Schedule

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

- Sept 3 Club Championship (Double Points)
- Aug 10 NAP Qualifier (Triple Points)
- Aug 17 AJB Charity (Double Points)
- Aug 24 District 7 ST@ C (Extra Silver Points)
- Aug 31 **NO GAME (Labor Day Regional)**
- Sept 7 International Fund (Double Points)
- Sept 14 International Fund (Double Points)
- Sept 21 International Fund (Double Points)
- Sept 28 International Fund (Double Points)
- Oct 5 Club Appreciation Pairs (Triple Points)
- Oct 12 Club Appreciation Teams (Triple Points)
- Oct 19 NABC Fund Raiser (Double Points)
- Oct 26 ACBL Charity (Double Points)

The ACBL and the DBAA offer many special games to clubs, giving you the opportunity to maximize your masterpoints. The ACBL events often include expert hand analyses. Here is what's on tap for the upcoming three months.

Thursday, August 18 (day)	Unity Charity Championship for Atlanta Junior Bridge
Friday, October 14 (afternoon)	*ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game

* Includes hand record with expert analysis of all boards

August is the last month in which you can qualify in clubs for the North American Pairs (NAP) District Finals in November. This is one of the two ACBL grass roots events where players must qualify in clubs for a chance at a subsidized trip to NABC finals. (If you and partner are Non-Life Masters with less than 500 points each, your District Finals will be right here in Atlanta.)

While NAP qualifying ends in August, the other grass roots event – Grand National Teams (GNT) begins in September.

Throughout September clubs can run International Fund games – check your club's calendar for any it is holding. A portion of each entry fee goes to support players representing North America in International competition.

October is Club Appreciation month and the ACBL lets each club run lots of these extra point games.

[President continued from p.2](#)

- “Partners’ performance improves if you yell at them.”

Ok, I've really never heard this myth stated as such but judging from what I see at bridge tables, a lot of players must believe this. Surely they are not berating their partners to make them play worse?! Yes, we all lose our patience once in a while but such actions are counterproductive. I've never seen a partner player after being publicly humiliated. I have seen many play worse, if for no other reason than they are thinking about the last hand rather than the current one.

Do you have a myth that needs debunking? Let me know and maybe I can give our readers a few more.

Martin J. Nathan
Marty Nathan

Tournament Schedule **August 2016 – April 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 twelve months.

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

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
March 1-5	DBAA Sectional	Marriott Perimeter Center
* May 25-29	DBAA Sectional	Marriott Perimeter Center
June 16-18	NLM<500 Sectional	Ruff n Sluff Bridge Club

* Tentative

Wow! Two great weeks in a row. First one to get your silver points in your own club, followed by the best regional in the country to earn your red and gold.

New Beginner Class

Tell your friends! A new **Beginner Class** will start Thursday, September 8 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Contact Sam Marks at sam@sammarksbridge.com or (770) 354-6033 for further information.

Editor's note: Beginning Bridge classes are critical for the growth of our game. The DBAA Newsletter is always pleased to help teachers promote such lessons.

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.