

NEWSLETTER

February 2017

VOL. V, 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
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

It's Not Just a Game

You hear it all the time at the table, "Remember, it's just a game." Often followed by something corny such as, "Nah, it's life and death." I've even said that myself. Truth be told, for so many of us, it really is more than just a game. Bridge becomes a large part of our life. It helps keep our mind agile. It cements many of our friendships. It becomes a significant part of our social life. We are a community.



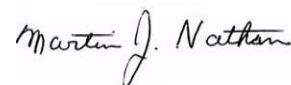
We've all seen a fellow player suffer from some terrible life event – an illness or accident, loss of a spouse, whatever. And we've seen duplicate bridge provide a threat-free environment for returning to normalcy. Three hours of both getting away and getting back.

All too often we don't really get to know those we play against (and sometimes even with.) Next game arrive a few minutes earlier and talk with someone you don't know very well. (Suggestion: stay away from politics.) You don't have to wait to read their obituary to find out what you all had in common.

There are other ways to take part in the bridge community. If a partner or friend becomes ill and can't leave home, round up a couple of players and take a bridge game to him/her. I promise it will provide all four of you a great joy. That is speaking from experience.

Do you have a suggestion as to how you and others can foster this feeling of community? Let me know and I'll try to share them. Is there something more the DBAA can do to contribute to this sense of communal identity? Let us know and we'll see what we can do.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Marty Nathan
mjaynathan@gmail.com

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

Beginning Bridge Class



Have some friends who want to learn to play bridge? Tell them about this new class starting Tuesday April 4 at the Alpharetta Duplicate Bridge Club. They'll be indebted to you forever!

Popular local Bob McFarland, a retired attorney, will be using Learn to Play Bridge software developed by Bridge Base Online's founder, Fred Gitelman. The hour and a half classes will start at 9AM and run through the following seven Tuesdays – eight classes in all. The cost is only \$95, and students can cut that to \$85 if they pre-register by March 28.

Contact Bob at bob@mcfarlandproperty.com if you or your friends have any questions.

Atlanta Supersectional Special Offers

For the next Atlanta Supersectional, why not consider a staycation for March 1 through March 5. You can stay at the host Hotel the Atlanta Perimeter Marriott for the incredibly low price of \$99 a night (\$124 on Wednesday). Not only will this add to your enjoyment of our bridge tournament but the Perimeter area offers a fantastic selection of restaurants, great shopping, easy access to MARTA and so much more.

And just for DBAA members only, we'll give \$50 to the first 15 who request it from Tournament Co-Chair Ron Torre at errotnor@yahoo.com.

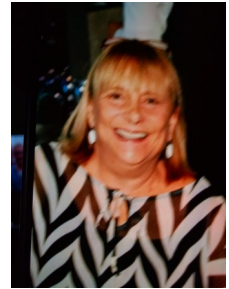
In November we tested – successfully – having the kind of lectures common at regionals. (Our sectionals after all already have the look and feel of regionals.) We're doing more this time around, and best of all, they are FREE. All start at 9:15 and end before the first session.

Wed., Mar 1	Marty Nathan	Understanding Matchpoint Scoring
Thurs., Mar 2	TBA	TBA
Fri., Mar 3	Patty Tucker	Strategic Responses to Preempts
Sat., Mar 4	TBA	TBA

DBAA Prepares to Launch New Website

by Sue Williams

Coming soon (February 2017) to a computer near you – the new DBAA website. We will have the same features along with a lot more content --- DBAA Hall of Fame, Sportsperson of the Year, Top Masterpoint Players, just to name a few. As proud as we are of the new site and features, the one feature players will like the most is the interactive member directory, and the ability for you to contact other players who agree to make their information available. This platform is Pianola which many of you already know as a host for club websites. All clubs will have the opportunity to post the games and results here if they so choose.



We sent an email to all DBAA members in late 2016, asking you to log into Pianola, set-up a user name, update your contact information and indicate your contact preferences relating to an online and print directory. Most of you, quite frankly, ignored this request, but below is information how you can still be a part of the new website and the online and/or print directory.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

To be listed in either an online or print directory, and to locate fellow members, you must have a Pianola account. Here you can create your profile, update your contact information and indicate your contact preferences.

If you can locate the email sent in late 2016, please do so and follow instructions. If not, please:

Email Sue Williams at szw2584@gmail.com or Rob Epstein at rbpstn@bellsouth.net with the subject “Send Me a Reminder” and include your name.

You will be sent a Reminder Email that will include a link and instructions. Follow those instructions and soon you will be enjoying the benefits of the DBAA site.

You can then log in and locate other members who have also agreed to show their contact information (phone, email and address).

It’s free!

Once this site is launched the old DBAA website will be discontinued. The website address for the new site will remain the same.

If you have questions about the new website or about this email, please feel free to contact Sue Williams or Rob Epstein.

Note: Ruff’N Sluff utilizes PIANOLA as their website platform. If you are a member of the Ruff’N Sluff PIANOLA site, you will have to also join the DBAA site and update your information on this site.

Tournament Schedule February 2017—January 2018

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!

January 30-February 5	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	Ruff n Sluff Bridge Club
August 21-27	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
August 29-September 4	Atlanta Regional	Crowne Plaza Ravinia
November 8-12	DBAA Sectional	Marriott Perimeter Center
December 11-17	District 7 ST@C	Your Club

We've had almost all positive feedback on the Marriott Perimeter Center. It's a great playing space and a central location. (Yes, it is Atlanta and there is traffic, but that's true for any location.) We're hoping to be there for most of our future sectionals.

Upcoming Special Games

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 is on tap for the upcoming three months.

Sat., Feb 4 (afternoon)	* ACBL-wide International Fund Game
Mon., Feb 13 (afternoon)	Unit Championship
Tues., Feb 14 (day)	Unit Championship
Wed., Feb 15 (day)	Unit Championship
Sat., Feb. 18 (day)	Unit Championship
Fri., Mar. 17 (day)	Unit Championship
Sat., Mar. 18 (day)	Unit Championship
Mon., Mar. 20 (day)	Unit Championship
Wed., Mar. 22 (day)	Unit Championship
Thurs., Mar. 23 (day)	Unit Championship (Swiss Teams)
Mon., Mar. 27 (afternoon)	*ACBL-wide Senior Game
Thurs., Apr. 27 (morning)	*ACBL-wide Senior Game

* Includes hand records with expert analyses

Clubs can run charity games throughout the month of April. These games help support the ACBL Charity Foundation as well as local charities selected by your club manager. Check your club's calendar for these games.

DBAA Game Schedule

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

Feb 1	District 7 ST@C
Feb 8	ACBL Charity (Double points)
Feb 15	Regular Game and Optional GNT
Feb 22	Regular Game
Mar 1	NO GAME Atlanta Sectional
Mar 8	Local Charity (Double points)
Mar 15	Regular Game
Mar 22	GNT Qualifier (Teams Only)
Mar 29	Club Championship (Double points and Change of Rank Party)
Apr 5	ACBL Charity (Double Points)
Apr 12	AJB Charity (Double points)
Apr 19	ACBL Charity (Double points) And Last-Chance Optnl GNT
Apr 26	AJB Charity (Double points)

Atlanta Supersectional – March 1-5

This will be our third sectional at the Marriott Perimeter Hotel and it may very well be the best.

There are many reasons to attend this SuperSectional, mainly:

A Sectional that awards all silver points at a site that looks, feels and acts like a regional

Free Parking

Easy \$99.00 hotel reservations for players by going to:

[Book your group rate for Spring Sectional Bridge Tournament 2017](#)

As a SPECIAL BONUS for this sectional, the first 15 DBAA members that register for Thursday/Friday/Saturday nights (3 consecutive nights) at the Marriott Perimeter will receive \$50 cash from the Partnership Desk. Room must be reserved as indicated above and then Ron Torre notified at errotnor@yahoo.com

Lessons prior to **EVERY** morning game, starting at 9:15, except Sunday
Two 3-session knockout events plus two compact knockouts during the day
Swiss team events **every** evening. Sure, we'll have pairs games as well
Friday and Saturday night games use the regional masterpoint scale that award about 30% more MP than normal

DBAA Championship Games:

NLM Pairs on Friday, 10:00 & 2:30

Flight B Pairs on Saturday, 10:00 & 2:30

Open Pairs on Saturday, 10:00 & 2:30

AJB Junior Swiss Championship Saturday at 10:00

All of the above and pleasant surprises – Do Not Miss These Games !!!

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.


Bridge Hand

Happy New Year

Board 28

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

Lead: ♦ A

Here's a hand from the January 1 Common Game. Put yourself in the South seat.

West leads the ♦ A and you start of course by counting your losers – a spade, two diamonds and two clubs. Based on the bidding and the play thus far, East must hold the ♣ K. (With that card and six diamonds to the AKJ, West would have opened 1 ♦.) That get you down to four losers. One to go.

West continues with the ♦ K and then the jack. Your play. . . .

Did you decide on a plan? South's best chance is to play East for the spade and club honors, planning to squeeze him out of one of them. She

discards the ♠ 5, which rated to be a loser anyway.

Say West now leads the ♣ 10 – nothing else is better – as well he might. East plays the king and South wins. A heart to the king reveals the 4-0 split, and also places West with a maximum of three black cards -- there's hope!

Three more rounds of hearts, hooking the jack, and the ♣ Q leave us with something like:

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

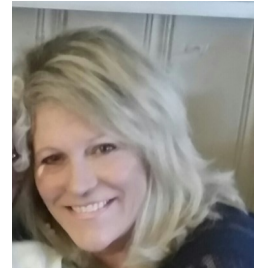
South leads the ♥ 6, throwing the club from dummy, and East's goose is Christmas dinner. Lesson: Don't afraid to play that last trump when you only have one loser left. Even if you don't plan a squeeze, there may be one there.

I'm glad to tell that two declarers at BCA actually made four on the hand. I think the only way to beat 4 ♥ is for West to lead spades twice - a hard defense to find at the table.

Change of Rank

by Becky Butler

Every year the DBAA (Unit 253) honors those who have achieved a new rank (sometimes more than one) in the prior year. In March we will be sponsoring Change of Rank Parties at the clubs/dates listed below.



Players that changed rank(s) during 2016 will be able to play free at ONE of the parties. Even if you had more than one change of rank, you are entitled to only ONE free play.

Each club will have a list of the qualifying players.

To the honorees, congratulations on your accomplishments with your bridge game.

To our clubs, thanks for hosting the parties on behalf of the DBAA.

Participating Club	Date	Contact
Alpharetta DBC	Friday, March 17	Diana Norris
Atlanta DBC	Monday, March 13	Dan Papineau
Bridge Club of Atlanta	Wednesday, March 8	Sam Marks
DBAA	Wednesday (night), March 29	Miles Duke
Midtown Bridge	Friday, March 10	Alvin Daigle
Ruff N Sluff	Tuesday, March 28	Priscilla Smith
Roswell Bridge	Wednesday, March 8	Bill Marks

Congratulations to Patty Tucker!

by Becky Butler



Few if any bridge players in Atlanta have been honored as much as Patty Tucker. Now Patty Tucker has obtained the elite rank of Grand Life Master!

Making it to the finals of the National Swiss during the Orlando NABC pushed her over the magical 10,000 points. She joins the 360 or so (out of over 170,000 members) that have achieved the rank of Grand Life Master. After the event, Patty mused, "Having already won a national title, I knew it was possible but still amazing when it happened. It was thrilling."

Patty is a delightful person in so many ways. She was ACBL Honorary Member in 2016 and ACBL Goodwill Member in 2011. She also teaches the game and having had the opportunity to play with her, she is fun at the table as a partner and nice to her opponents. We are proud of you Patty.



Becoming a Better Player

Not a word here about conventions, end plays or signals. Nothing to improve your game results. Just a few tips as to how *you* can make our game better for everyone.

When you see offensive behavior, let the director and/or club manager know. Every club wants its players to have fun. You can help make that happen.

It's not considered acceptable to tip your director for doing a good job. (Although I might just start a campaign to fix this horrendous inequity!) You can however show your appreciation by cleaning up around your table after the last round. Trash to the waste baskets. Cups to the kitchen. Boards put away (if your club does this). Pencils back to the box. I promise your director will appreciate it.

No one likes to wait for the next round. Directors work hard to keep the game moving at a reasonable pace. Here's how you can help.

Slow-paced players – you know who you are: get in the habit of playing all the boards before you discuss them. All players: this also applies to you whenever you are behind. Even if it was that other partnership's fault.

Get that opening lead on the table before you fill in your personal scorecard. You'll have plenty of time while declarer thinks about the hand.

Put down dummy before you fill in your personal scorecard

North, score the hand in the Bridgmate (or on the traveler) before completing your personal score.

When you hear the round being called and you're still playing, move those other boards to the next table. (East and West can help out here too.) You don't need to wait on a reminder from the director. You may not start a new board once the round has been called.

It's OK to ask the next table for boards but *only* if the round has been called. (Your club may allow it if there are less than two minutes left on the clock.) Do not go to the table to ask for boards; you might see something you're not supposed to.

ALERT: Every club manager runs their operation a bit differently. All the above may not apply to your club. But you get the idea.

Editor's note: Thanks to Ina Parry for contributing many of the ideas for this article.

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 0-100
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.

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.

Here is the *tentative* schedule for the rest of 2017.

March 11	July 15	October 14
April 15	August 26	December 9
June 3		

ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Duplicate Bridge Association
of Atlanta (DBAA)**
will hold its
Annual Membership Meeting
on
Sunday, March 5
(during the lunch break)
at the Atlanta Spring SuperSectional
Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center
246 Perimeter Center Pkwy NE

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

Georgia Tech Finalist in North American Collegiate Bridge Championship

by Giorgio Casinovi



A team from the Georgia Tech Bridge Club will be among the finalists of the ACBL Collegiate Bridge Bowl at the Summer NABC in Toronto, Canada this July. The Bridge Bowl is an annual competition among college teams organized by the ACBL. The origin of the competition can be traced as far back as 1940, when an intercollegiate bridge tournament was held at Radcliffe College.



Two teams from the Georgia Tech Bridge Club, Georgia Tech Gold and Georgia Tech White, entered the first round of qualifying matches, which was held online last October. On the first day, in which the initial field of 16 entrant teams was narrowed to eight, Georgia Tech Gold crushed teams from

Allegheny College 46–6 IMPs and Northwestern University 48–7, while losing to defending champion University of Illinois 21–36

On the second day the remaining eight teams were divided into two brackets of four teams each. Georgia Tech Gold lost their initial match against the University of California at Berkeley 16–25. They made up quickly for that loss by winning overwhelmingly against the University of Maryland 50–4 and more narrowly in a rematch against Northwestern University 28–24. At the end of the second day of matches, Georgia Tech Gold was among the four top teams that earned the right to

[Continued on p.13](#)

ACBL Races

The results are in and Atlanta turned in outstanding performances.

Each year the ACBL tracks masterpoints for each of the 15 ACBL ranks, from rookie to 10,000 points and over. Actually we do this twice, once for points earned just in clubs and again for total points. The ACBL further breaks this down by unit and district. For total points DBAA members took 30 of the 150 Top Ten slots in the District 7 Mini-McKenney (all points). We did even better in the Ace of Clubs Competition, with 55 players in the top 10 of their respective ranks. Mason Barge and Bill Kulbersh won the national competitions – again – in the 500-1,000 point category and the 7,500-10,000 point rank, respectively.

Want to know how you ranked? You can find all the races on www.acbl.org; click on “Races”.

We’ll recognize the winners of each category for the unit competitions between session of the Sunday Swiss at the upcoming Atlanta sectional.

play in the final round of the competition. The three other finalists were the teams from Berkeley, Illinois and the University of North Carolina.

Four more finalist teams will be selected in a second qualifying round of matches in February. In Toronto the eight finalist teams will play in face-to-face matches that will determine the winner of the 2016–17 ACBL Bridge Bowl.

Georgia Tech White also made it through the first day of qualifying matches but lost on the second day to Illinois and UNC and did not make the final cut. Complete results of the games played by both teams, including trick-by-trick replays, are available on the Georgia Tech Bridge Club web site at <http://bridgeclub.gtorg.gatech.edu/GT/Events/CBowl/CollegeBowl2016.html>.

The Georgia Tech Bridge Club is an official student organization of the Georgia Institute of Technology, originally established in 1949. Over the years it has undergone several reorganizations, and it was last chartered in 2009 in its current status. Its stated mission is to promote the game of bridge among Georgia Tech students, a goal it pursues through various activities. The club's weekly games are advertised to the general student population, and they include short lessons on bidding and card play to help new members learn the skills necessary to become confident players. These activities are made possible by the efforts of volunteers, including most recently Tom Eidson and Patty Tucker, and by the generosity of a number of alumni and supporters, all of whom contribute in various ways to the club's operation. Current information about the club activities is posted on their web site at <http://bridgeclub.gtorg.gatech.edu> and also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GTBridgeClub>. To obtain more information about the Georgia Tech Bridge Club or to offer support for their mission, please email to bridgeclub@gatech.edu.

The Georgia Tech Gold team will play in the finals of the 2016-17 Collegiate Bridge Bowl at the Summer NABC in Toronto.



From left to right:

Uddhav Bhagat, Andy Xu, Charles Wang, Santhosh Karnik and Arjun Dhir.

Giorgio Casinovi is a Senior Research Engineer at Georgia Tech and the force behind the Georgia Tech Bridge Club.