

NEWSLETTER

January

VOL. II, NO 1

WHERE ARE OUR BRIDGE CLUBS?

Alpharetta Duplicate Bridge Club

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Alpharetta, GA 30005
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E-mail: info@alpharettadbc.org
Website: alpharettadbc.org

Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center

6761 Peachtree Industrial, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30360
Dan Papineau: 770-248-0306
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Website: atlantaduplicatebridgeclub.com

Bridge Club of Atlanta

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

Buckhead Bridge Club

Northwest Presbyterian Church
4300 Northside Drive
Atlanta, GA 30327
Bill Marks: 770-855-6952
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Website: billsbridge.com

Dan's Duplicate Atlanta North

1715 Millside Terrace
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Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/DansDuplicateAtlantaNorth>

President's Letter

"I dislike writing this...." That's how ACBL CEO Robert Hartman began his column on Zero Tolerance in the October *Bulletin*. I share that feeling. I dislike that there are bad apples who deprive our members of full enjoyment of the game. I dislike that I am so helpless to do much about it. When I was running for DBAA president, several of you suggested that I improve performance of our clubs in the area of Z-T. Unfortunately the DBAA (or Unit 114, for that matter) has no authority over the clubs in this regard. The ACBL pretty much adopts a hands-off policy, treating the clubs more like business partners than franchises of the organization.



You aren't the only ones concerned about Z-T. In addition to Hartman's October piece, Brent Manley addressed this problem in the November issue. The January issue has another column from Hartman and a lead story to boot. I encourage all club owners and directors to review this material.

We all know of social bridge players who won't touch duplicate because of mistreatment they have heard of or perhaps endured, hopefully before Z-T. We need to fix this problem if we are to see the duplicate game grow. The burden is on you and me. If you are one of those abusing the director or making the opponents feel

[continued on p.13](#)

Request

We still do not have e-mail addresses for all those who play at our clubs. If you know someone who is not getting the Newsletter, please send names and e-mail address to Mary Ann Oakley maryann.oakley@mindspring.com. Thanks!

Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta

6761 Peachtree Industrial, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30360
George Powell: 770-594-1874
E-mail: 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

Marietta Country Club Players

1400 Marietta Country Club Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152
Priscilla Smith: 770-973-7717
E-mail: 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
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Website: 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
Website: billsbridge.com

Ruff 'n Sluff Bridge Club

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

Silver Belles and Beaus

5285 Lakeside Drive
Union City, GA 30291
Bettie Harden: 770-306-3461
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Mentoring Program Begins Soon

by Roz Howell

The DBAA is once again sponsoring the popular mentoring program in all area clubs throughout the month of March. Clubs will arrange mentoring between a Life Master and a Non-Life Master. The DBAA will pay the entry fee and fund a free play, to be used at a later date, for every Mentor. Look for signup sheets and details at your favorite club(s) in February. This program is fun and rewarding for all participants. Everyone is encouraged to join in and enjoy.



The Program Chair is Roz Howell. Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions: rozrhowell@gmail.com.

Bridge 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 key to any enterprise; given an average age around 70 for ACBL members, they are especially critical to the future of duplicate bridge. 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 <http://whidco.com/DBAA>.

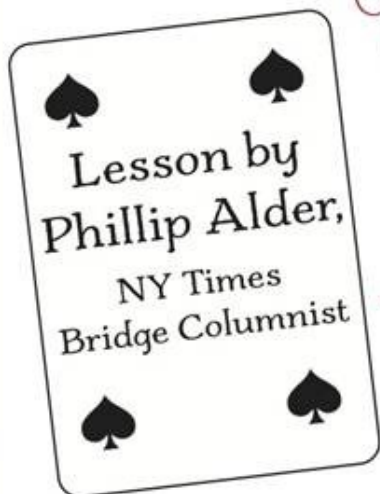




SAVE THE DATE



Godfrey's Grand Slam Bridge Benefit



Sunday, May 18, 2014

12:30-1 PM Registration

The Rollins School of Public Health
at Emory University

Every year, 180,000 babies are born with Spina Bifida. Dr. Godfrey Oakley, Director of the Center for Spina Bifida at Emory University, says this paralyzing birth defect can be largely prevented worldwide in 10 years by adding folic acid to refined grains. Be a part of this important cause.



LET'S TRUMP SPINA BIFIDA!



From the Director's Table

by Dan Plato

I appreciate the DBAA's offer to pen a few words about the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and various other regulations (including the General Convention Chart, the Alert Chart, and Conditions of Contest) we make use of daily at our clubs and tournaments. As the months go by I hope to be able to share insights for all players that may help them better understand their own rights and responsibilities in playing the great game of Duplicate Bridge.



One Law almost never cited but upon which our entire foundation depends is Law 44.C:

Requirement to Follow Suit

In playing to a trick, each player must follow suit if possible. This obligation takes precedence over all other requirements of these Laws.

This is one of the most commonly broken Laws, as we all have revoked at one time or another. We have a whole set of Laws designed to rectify the matter, another article completely unto itself. What it does remind us though is of

another important concept, Law 72.B.1:

Infraction of Law

A player must not infringe a law intentionally, even if there is a prescribed rectification he is willing to accept.

In the case of a revoke it is not uncommon for a director to hear a player curse his opponent for revoking and to hear the revoker cry out, "I didn't mean to!" That is all well and good, because if you *meant* to you would be breaking Law 72.B.1. Most revokers have that wonderful "deer in the headlights" look when a director is called and the announcement is made that there's been a revoke. This is proof in itself that the player never intended to break the Law.

Years ago when I took the test to become a Tournament Director there was a question about an insufficient bid. One element we consider when examining insufficient bids is whether or not it is conventional. Frequently in insufficient bid situations a partner may be barred depending on the choice the offender makes. I made strong reference in my essay to Law 23 and 72.B.1 and was cautioned that "this never happens." I wrote back with the following example.

I had recently ruled in a club game on the following auction:

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----------------------|
| 1♣ | P | 1♦ | P |
| 2NT | P | 4NT | P |
| 5♠ | P | 5♥ | "Director Please!!!" |

[*continued on p.11*](#)



Limited Games - up to 500 MPs

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

ABA 81st Summer National Tournament

by Gloria Christler

The 81st Summer National Tournament of the American Bridge Association, Inc. (ABA) will be held July 31st – August 9th at the Crowne Plaza Ravina at Perimeter, Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia. For those who may not be familiar with the ABA, it is an organization of predominately Black bridge players, which formed in 1933 during a period in our history when Afro-Americans/Blacks were not permitted to join the American Contract Bridge League. The organization continues to exist to attract individuals to the world of bridge and to carry out our charitable missions. In 1961 ACBL opened its doors to Afro-Americans and today members of both organizations play in each other's events and are members of both the ABA and ACBL.

The ABA sponsors a Spring National Tournament, usually near Easter, and a Summer National Tournament, July/August, as well sectional and regional tournaments. The ABA through its Educational and Charitable Foundation is heavily invested in raising funds for scholarships for young people. The ABA gives 24 scholarships annually to students who have completed their freshman year in college. The month of October is devoted to raising funds for the United Negro College Fund. Clubs throughout the ABA sponsor games to benefit UNCF.

The ABA is not only a very competitive bridge organization; it is also known for its welcoming family atmosphere and GREAT hospitality. Wednesday, August 6th, is designated ABA/ACBL Day. We will play a two (2) session, non-mixed open pair game at noon, as well as two one-session open pairs at noon and 5:00 PM. So, mark your calendar 7/31 – 8/9. Come play at our Summer National Tournament and enjoy the competition, the camaraderie and the fun. If you would like to learn more about the ABA and our tournament schedule, please visit our website: www.ababridge.org.

DBAA Game Schedule

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

| | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 29 | Regular Game |
| Feb 5 | ACBL Junior Fund Game Double Points |
| Feb 12 | Regular Game and Optional GNT |
| Feb 19 | ACBL Junior Fund Game Double Points |
| Feb 26 | NO GAME (Roswell Sectional) |
| Mar 5 | Club Championship Double Points |
| Mar 12 | ACBL Charity Double Points |
| Mar 19 | Regular Game |
| Mar 26 | GNT Qualifier Teams Only Triple Points |
| Apr 2 | Local Charity Double Points |
| Apr 9 | Regular Game |
| Apr 16 | ACBL Charity Double Points |
| Apr 23 | Regular Game and Optional GNT |
| Apr 30 | Local Charity Double Points |

Roswell Sectional

Tournament Chairman Dick Myers presented a check to Bettye Prescott of the Roswell Ramblers, who were very generous in helping at the November DBAA Sectional. The contribution will be used to help fund their new pool, which will be built starting next month.



Due to pool construction, parking may be curtailed for the February 26 Roswell Sectional. Dick Myers advises that the plan is to have a shuttle bus running an hour before games from the parking lot at Roswell Suites. We still encourage healthy people to park on the upper lot and save the limited spaces at the Recreation Center for those with disabilities who can neither get into the shuttle bus nor walk from the upper lot.



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:

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| February 28 | Roswell Sectional | 5:30 - 7:15pm |
| April 19 | Bridge Club of Atlanta | 9:30 - 11:30am |
| June 14 | Bridge Club of Atlanta | 9:30 - 11:30am |
| August 9 | Bridge Club of Atlanta | 9:30 - 11:30am |
| October 4 | Bridge Club of Atlanta | 9:30 - 11:30am |
| November 14 | Roswell Sectional | 5:30 - 7:15pm |

Opponent of the Month

by Janet Edwards

Bridget, especially Bridget, and Jerry Dobson love



bridge in Atlanta. She says that it is the only thing in the world that makes her forget to eat. Coming from someone who spent a career creating plot twists for her characters on the

soaps, putting the intrigue of duplicate bridge on a par with the intrigue of a daytime drama! You read it right: Bridget and her husband, Jerry, were writers, creators and producers of daytime soap operas. Bridget started out as a writer for *General Hospital*, which her parents created, then moved to *Guiding Light*, where Jerry became her writing partner. Next they worked on *As the World Turns*.

When that series ended, they tried retirement in Santa Barbara, but that lasted only as long as it took for NBC to offer them the opportunity to create, own, produce and head-write a new soap called appropriately enough, *Santa Barbara*. Based on a novel Bridget was writing for Warner Books about two families in Santa Barbara, it was the first and only launch of an hour a day drama in the history of television. A beloved national and international hit, the show aired from July, 1984 to January, 1993 in the US, and continued for another seven years internationally. President Ronald Reagan was known to be a fan and even sent his well wishes from the White House to actress Louise Sorel when her character was blinded in a tunnel collapse.

Bridget and Jerry have won numerous awards for their writing, including six from the Writers Guild of America. Their show *Santa Barbara* won more than fifty Emmys, the most prized of all being the Emmy for Best Daytime Show awarded in 1988. It shares a coveted space on her bookshelf along with her numerous bridge trophies.

Bridget says that, after years of no sleep, no friends, no newspapers, movies or social life, they were ready for a respite. Lucky for us they found it here in Atlanta. Bridget spent several years pursuing another of her passions and talents, art. Her paintings traveled to eight museums across the country, for solo shows, from the American Museum of Art in Indianapolis to the Charles Allis Museum of Art in Milwaukee among others. There were solo gallery shows from New York to Charleston. On top of that she created a line of china, crystal and giftware. Meanwhile Jerry, who began life as a rancher, spent his time looking after the vineyard he started in Manton, California in the early '70s and fulfilled his quest for knowledge in history and science. When Bridget's art started feeling like a job instead of a passion, she decided to close that chapter of her life, too. It was then that she discovered bridge.

Bridget had played some bridge at Stanford University where she studied and where she met Jerry. She had not played since, until she arrived in Atlanta. Her once a week game became the thing she looked forward to most. After some lessons and the mastery of a few conventions she started playing duplicate. Jerry joined her soon after. They were both hooked. Like opening a gift, Bridget says, each hand is a surprise. Sometimes you find a lump of coal and sometimes you find a Tiffany diamond! The best thing about the game, to both Bridget and Jerry, has been the friends that they have made.

The Dobsons are known for their no fear of controversy and quirky humor. As writers they have tackled tough social issues and created memorable characters and events. They have wrestled with the full range of human emotion. They might say that bridge is a metaphor for all of these things. It taps into our humanity on all levels. To them, it does have all the intrigue of a soap opera and that is what they love the most about it.

Masterpoint Races

Based on not quite final results, local players did exceedingly well in the annual Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney competition. The former is based on points members earned in clubs while the latter is based on all points earned in 2013. You can see the Unit 114 – which were absolutely dominated by those opponents you play against on a daily basis – and the District 7 tentative final standings at www.acbl.org/ by logging in at Your Member Page, just as if checking your masterpoints.

Here is how our players fared in the national Ace of Clubs races. Their success is a tribute to their hard work and dedication to the game and to the great clubs we are blessed with in Atlanta.

| 0 to 5 | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 1 | Bijan Kasraie | 122.09 |
| 3 | Bridgette Standback | 92.45 |
| 11 | Ghassan Alabed | 60.63 |
| 15 | Jane Wise | 56.14 |

| 5 to 20 | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 2 | Jan Noll | 108.17 |
| 21 | Duke Bhatia | 59.34 |
| 63 | Ann Martin | 46.64 |
| 71 | Peggy Johnson | 45.46 |

| 20 to 50 | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 4 | Bert Ward | 109.20 |
| 44 | Elliott Goldstein | 68.51 |
| 60 | Helen Browdy | 64.15 |

| 50 to 100 | | |
|-----------|------------------|--------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 4 | Beth Stephens | 125.18 |
| 6 | Crystal Schwindt | 116.57 |
| 41 | Laura Jackson | 83.58 |
| 44 | Donald Hill | 82.19 |
| 71 | Jennifer Magid | 74.55 |
| 74 | John Thompson II | 73.24 |
| 81 | Elizabeth Grace | 71.06 |
| 89 | Sara Swint | 69.31 |
| 93 | Cristina Shannon | 67.64 |

| 100 to 200 | | |
|------------|------------------|--------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 27 | Elyse Mintz | 103.46 |
| 68 | Kim McEver | 88.10 |
| 83 | Libba Wight | 83.23 |
| 99 | Thomas Slaughter | 81.14 |

| 200 to 300 | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 4 | Joan Duffy | 146.42 |
| 13 | Susan Campbell | 117.96 |
| 49 | Bridget Dobson | 91.61 |
| 57 | Sheryl Sack | 89.67 |
| 60 | Beverly Wilkinson | 88.19 |

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Masterpoint Races*[continued from p.8](#)*

| 300 to 500 | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 9 | Rick Scott | 159.24 |
| 13 | Donna Schmid | 152.88 |
| 28 | Gail Westburg | 130.55 |
| 31 | Veronica Stoessel | 127.08 |
| 38 | Kay O'Connor | 123.77 |
| 85 | Chris Trower | 105.27 |
| 94 | Jeff Wood | 102.69 |

| 500 to 1000 | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 6 | Rebecca Lee | 218.29 |
| 46 | Tiffany Greene | 155.79 |
| 50 | Anne Ballard | 152.85 |
| 50 | Robert Dodd | 152.85 |
| 53 | Sikina Ehmer | 151.34 |
| 57 | Shirley Carroll | 149.04 |
| 63 | Janice Brown | 146.03 |

| 1000 to 2500 | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 21 | Peggy Tienken | 229.05 |
| 71 | David Zeckets | 187.72 |
| 84 | Dennis Kanne | 183.55 |
| 99 | Larry Spruell | 178.82 |

| 2500 to 5000 | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 34 | Sanjeev Pathak | 252.73 |

| 5000 to 7500 | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 24 | Mike Sheldon | 266.86 |
| 36 | William Kulbersh | 248.19 |
| 41 | Gloria Kilpatrick | 241.54 |
| 53 | Jim Stogner | 229.49 |

| 7500 to 10,000 | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 16 | Arnold Hawkins | 261.80 |
| 38 | Harold Task | 221.97 |

| Over 10,000 | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rank | Player | Points |
| 31 | Richard Taube | 219.04 |

Many of these players also placed in the Mini-McKenney. You can see the national rankings at [Mini-McKenney](#).



Bridge Hand

Count Your Tricks

South Deals ♠ 10 3
 None Vul ♥ K Q J 10
 ♦ A J 10 9
 ♣ K 4 3

♠ K Q 9 7 6
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ Q 9 6

♠ 8 5 4
 ♥ 9 7 6 3
 ♦ Q 8 7 2
 ♣ 8 2

♠ A J 2
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ K 6 3
 ♣ A J 10 7 5

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|------|-------|
| | | | 1♣ |
| 1♠ | Dbl ¹ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

¹Negative
 Lead: ♠7

South's rebid showed a balanced 12-14 HCP. North knew there was no major suit fit and at least 26 points. She bid the notrump game.

If you play low on the opening lead, you guarantee two spade tricks. Now, count your tricks. You have two spades, two diamonds, and two clubs. You only need three more tricks, and hearts can give you three. Knock out the ♥A and claim your contract.

If you play on clubs or diamonds, you risk taking only eight tricks. Note that if you finesse in clubs, and guess which way to finesse, you will make overtricks. Play safe. Develop tricks in a suit where you have inevitable losers, such as the ♥A, and not in suits with potential losers. You will be a winner most of the time.

Thanks to Bob Duval for contributing this hand.

Atlanta Junior Bridge Player Qualifies for the World Bridge Championships in Istanbul Turkey

One of our AJB student's teams qualified to represent the USA in the Junior World Bridge Championships, which will be held in August in Istanbul, Turkey. Arjun Dhir of Alpharetta captained the U21 USA2 team which proved victorious in the three-day trials held in Atlanta the week between Christmas and New Years. Held by the United States Bridge Federation, the week consisted of a three-day round of training and practice sessions, culminating in a three-day team trial. Congratulations to Arjun! Our best wishes will be with you in Turkey.



AJB student Mili Raina also competed in the trials for the Rona (Womens) Trials, playing in a grueling two-day, 96 board match. While they were defeated, Mili "did us proud" and it was great to watch her play ... win or lose.

Another round of kudos go to Patty Tucker, who has been so instrumental in making AJB such a great success, and to all those "grown up" players who have helped.

Atlanta Junior Bridge Opportunities

Patty Tucker has a series of workshops scheduled for Winter and Spring at the Family Life Center. Most are during the week; however there are several Saturday classes that might be of interest. Atlanta Junior Bridge students are welcome to join the classes at no charge. To see the complete list of workshops being held at the Family Life Center please visit Patty's website at www.bridgewithpatty.com.

Respect Your Fellow Players!

Editor's Note: Thanks to Bill Marks for the following tip.

The bridge world contains a lot of seniors, who have a difficult time shaking colds and the flu. Please be aware that, should you be ill with either a cold or the flu, you should not come to bridge. Your fellow players will appreciate that. And as some players also suffer from multiple allergies, they will appreciate it if you save your perfume/ cologne/aftershave/ for an evening out and not wear it to bridge. Scents cause some players to develop bad headaches or nausea.



Joke Time

Daffynitions

Bath Coup - getting to use the tub before your roommate.

Doubleton - 4,000 pounds.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Why is it that experts avoid the use of Blackwood, and novices use Blackwood with a void?

BRIDGE SONG



"Bridge Over Troubled Water" Travel-with-Goren cruise that stops in Havana, Tripoli and Basra.

BRIDGE MOVIE

Bridge On the River Kwai - one of the first Goren cruises... a real blowout!

2014 Tournament Schedule

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Feb 26-Mar 2 | Atlanta Sectional | Roswell Adult Recreation Center |
| Mar 25-30 | District 7 ST@C | Your Club |
| Jul 2-6 | Atlanta Sectional | Norcross North Atlanta Trade Center |
| Aug 1-3 | NLM Sectional | Ruff 'n' Sluff Bridge Club |
| Aug 26-Sept 1 | Atlanta Regional | Ravinia Crowne Plaza |
| Nov 12-16 | Atlanta Sectional | Roswell Adult Recreation Center |

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

President's letter [continued from p.1](#)

uncomfortable, please clean up your act. If your partner is the culprit, have a frank discussion with him or her. If you see bad behavior at another table, tell the director. If you are the victim of Z-T violations, tell the director and the club owner. Be insistent; ask what penalties were assessed. Let the club managers know you expect a pleasant place to play bridge.

Do you think I'm exaggerating the problem? As of December 31, our unit (65% of which is the DBAA) is 39th out of 300 units in percentage gain in new members. That puts us in the top 15%. Pretty good, especially considering we are already one of the largest units in North America. In retention of those new members, however, we rank 169th. That's right, the bottom 50%. While there well may be other reasons, I can't help but believe we drove away a good many members.

I wish the ACBL could or would do more. I've written them with specific suggestions. But until they come around, it's up to us. Let's get it done.

Martin J. Nathan

PS. If you aren't sure what constitutes Z-T violations, you can find the policy on p.13. There's also a great article on the ACBL website at <http://www.acbl.org/play/zerotolerance.html>.

Zero Tolerance Policy

This issues' President's Letter discussed the ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy. We thought it would be a good idea to include it here so all members can understand their responsibilities to their fellow players and indeed to the game itself. While clubs are not required to have or enforce the Z-T policy, the ACBL strongly encourages them to do so.

Be cool! Bridge is fun.

The ACBL Board of Directors and Management are committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. In accordance with Laws 74, 80F, 81C4, 90A, 91, and 92A (Laws of Duplicate Bridge) the following policy outlines what is expected of all players during NABCs and other ACBL sponsored events, as well as in the playing area before and after each session.

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our NABCs. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

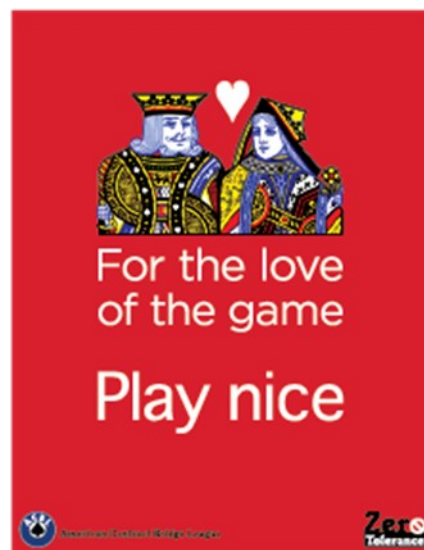
- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
- Greeting others in a friendly manner.
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents.
(This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)

The following list shows some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**.

Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.



[*continued on p. 15*](#)

Zero Tolerance

[continued from p.14](#)

The following procedures have been given to the tournament directors for implementation.

- I. At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament will be observing ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.
- II. The director, when called, shall make an assessment of the situation. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board EACH = $\frac{1}{2}$ board!). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.
- III. If it is determined that the same offender is responsible for a second offense in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from future competition in that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event, no masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made. All previously-obtained results shall, however, remain valid as to their effect upon other competitors. In the case of a serious offense and in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a tournament, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the tournament and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.
- IV. Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated

unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.

- V. In accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's decision, but could recommend that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary committee.
- VI. The DIC shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Tournament Chairman and/or Recorder.

Down 1!???

Most newer players never had the opportunity to hear Jerry Popkin's stories. Here is one of our favorites. Jerry claimed it was true but you never knew!

He was kibitzing at the club, watching two LOL's as he sat behind North. On the first board of the round, the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♠, followed by three passes. North proceeds to make her contact with no overtricks. On the second board, the bidding is exactly the same. Play proceeds and Declarer is down 1. North takes out the traveler (new players, ask a life master!) and exclaims, "Someone has written on our line." Upshot: she played the same board twice but the second time finessed the wrong way for the ♠Q!

The responder here had made a quantitative 4NT bid asking the opening bidder if she had the “extras” to go on to 6NT. Clearly the opening bidder believed she was answering some form of Blackwood. Now the responder, knowing they were missing two aces, got the bright idea that if she purposefully made an insufficient bid she could then correct it to 5NT and stop the runaway train.

Both Laws 72.B.1 and 23 apply here. Law 23:

**Awareness of
Potential Damage**

Whenever, in the opinion of the Director, an offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that this could well damage the non-offending side, the Director shall require the auction and play to continue (if not completed). When the play has been completed, the Director awards an adjusted score if he considers the offending side has gained an advantage through the irregularity.

Moral of the story: Don't knowingly break the Law! This board was adjusted to 6NT down 1. And Miss 5♥ Smarty-Pants got a stern reading of Law 72.B.1. The head director who had graded my exam acknowledged that “never” was a poor choice of words.

(Editor's note: We are most fortunate to have a director the caliber of Dan Plato right here in Atlanta. In addition to being an outstanding Tournament Director and Tournament Operations Specialist, Dan is one of the ACBL's experts when it comes to rules. Write the ACBL about a ruling issue and you are most likely to get a response from Dan. We are delighted that Dan will be a regular contributor to the DBAA Newsletter.)

Unit Elections Coming Up

The election for Unit 114 area representatives will be held at the Roswell Sectional February 26-March 1, with the announcement of the results on March 2. Area reps are Unit 114 board members and automatically become members of the DBAA Board of Directors.

The Metro Atlanta area (6 counties as defined by the Unit) is allotted 9 area reps, voted upon in staggered elections. There are five elected this cycle. Any member of Unit 114 can run for an area rep position by self-nomination. The deadline is January 30. Complete instructions are at <http://www.unit114acbl.org/index.html>.



You have three options for casting your ballot. In addition to the Roswell Sectional, there will also be

voting at the clubs (one session per club) during the week before the sectional, at times to be agreed upon by the election committee and the clubs. Lastly, you can cast an absentee ballot; the procedures will be posted on the website soon.

As of the date of this Newsletter, there are six nominees: Vicki Bell, Becky Butler, Thomas Eidson, Josie Mitchell, Dick Myers, and Marty Nathan. All nominees have the opportunity to post a short biography on the DBAA web site. They need to submit their information to Election Monitor Bob Duval, who has graciously agreed to serve as the Election Monitor for this Election.

If you would like to run, there is still time to nominate yourself—or have a friend do it for you. And don't forget to vote!