



INFO FLASH

54th SPRING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BALTIMORE, MD

Information Issue

Saturday

April 6, 2024

Dear Players,

Welcome to the 54th Annual Spring National Tournament at Live Casino in Hanover, Maryland! We're thrilled to kick off this exciting event with all of you today.

As we embark on this week of intense competition and camaraderie, I'm delighted to introduce some new and exciting initiatives for our event winners. In this issue of the Daily Flash, you'll find details about our latest awards programs designed to celebrate and honor your achievements throughout the tournament. Be sure to check it out to learn more about how you can earn recognition for your outstanding performances at the bridge table!

Remember, the essence of our tournament extends far beyond the awards and accolades—it's about the joy of playing the game we all love, the friendships forged, and the memories created. Every participant contributes to the vibrant tapestry of our bridge community, and in that sense, everyone who attends is a winner.

So, embrace the challenges, savor the victories, and above all, enjoy every moment of this extraordinary event. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or a first-time attendee, I hope you find inspiration, excitement, and fulfillment in the days ahead.

Thank you for being a part of the 54th Annual Spring National Tournament. Let's make this week one to remember!

Best wishes,
Gloria Christler
ABA National President

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PLAYERS WITH FEWER THAN 600 MASTERPOINTS WHO PRE-REGISTERED ON THE ABA WEBSITE BEFORE MARCH 15 MAY PICK UP THEIR FREE PLAY IN THE NATIONAL OFFICE.

ROOM LOCATIONS

NATIONAL OFFICE

BOX OFFICE

FLASH OFFICE

BOX OFFICE

PLAYING AREA

**ENCORE/OVATION/HEADLINER-EVENT
CENTER MAIN FLOOR**

HOST GROUP

EVENT CENTER PRE-FUNCTION SPACE

NEW PLAYERS SEMINARS

HEADLINER ROOM

New Milestones

If you earn a new level while you are at this tournament, be sure and sign up in the National Office to be recognized at the **AWARDS CEREMONY AND DINNER** on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Of course if you achieved the milestone before you got here, you are still eligible to receive your award at this tournament. Just stop by the National Office and sign in to let us know you are here. Attend the **AWARDS CEREMONY** to celebrate and get your picture taken for the **SUMMER** issue of the **BULLETIN**. Your cooperation will make our **AWARDS CEREMONY** run very smoothly and efficiently. The ABA BULLETIN Editor, Margaret Pulley-Johnson is attending this tournament and will be taking all pictures.

ALERT!

ALERT YOU MUST BE IN YOUR SEATS TO PLAY BRIDGE FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE GAME TIME or YOU WILL BE PENALIZED.

ALERT The CELL PHONE POLICY is in effect. If the phone rings or if you are texting or reading emails PENALTIES WILL BE ASSESSED during a session. For Pair Games - 1 Board Penalty. For Team Games - 12 IMPS.

ALERT Registration for the Morning Knockout and the C G Fredd KO closes Sunday Evening, April 7th at 7:30 PM. Registration for the Team Games can be made as entries for Pair Games are sold on Saturday and Sunday. This means that you have all day Saturday and all day Sunday to register for the Knockouts.

THE ABA DIRECTING STAFF
ANDREW ECHOLS
NTA CHAIR/ SUPERVISORY DIRECTOR

**EVENTS OF TOMORROW
SUNDAY
April 7, 2024
"MY BRIDGE CLUB DAY"**

8:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM	George Hudson Pro-Am Game
2:00 PM	Mixed Pairs (1st Session)
	Women's Pairs (1st Session)
	Side Game
7:30 PM	Mixed Pairs Championship (2nd Session)
	Women's Pairs (2nd Session)
	Side Game

**Defending Winners
from the 2023 Spring National
in Elizabeth, IN**

F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Game

O/5000	Nathaniel Cook and Leon Ragland Shirley Williams and Noah Newman
U/5000	Frances Robinson and Linda Johnson
U/2000	Michelle Cotton and Leon Bradley

Mixed Pairs

O/5000	Alice Brown and En Xie
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C.G. Fredd Knockout

- Flight A:** Barbara Hutson, Errol Grant, Leon Ragland, Cheryll Jones,
Nathaniel Cook, Willetta Phipps
Flight B: Mary Scott-Knoll, Shirleana Hoskins Eugenia Jackson Lazell Harris
Flight C: Frances Robinson, Linda Johnson, Rubbie Brown, Ernestine Persle

Dan Scrivens Open Pairs

O/5000	Gloria Christler and Lionel Barton
O/2000	Sonya Wilkins and Celeste Williams

Board-A-Match:

Alice Brown, En Xie, Harold Minus, Jerrie Thomas

Au Revoir Pairs:

O/5000	Alice Brown and En Xie
U/5000	Herman Lathon and Annie Mays



April 6-12, 2024
Live Casino & Hotel
Hanover (Baltimore), MD

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54th Spring National Tournament
American Bridge Association, Inc.

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The host group has been planning for your arrival for several months and we are so happy that the time has finally come to greet you all as you arrive here at the exciting Live Hotel and Casino in Hanover, Maryland! Some of our plans for you include:

- A Church Service on Sunday, at 8:30 AM.
- Hospitality planned for Sunday and Thursday after the final game (various food items).
- The Awards Gala is on Wednesday night. We will recognize those of you who have reached a new Bridge level!! Come ready to *Show up and Show Out!* (Dressy Attire). The cost of the Gala is \$75.00 which includes dinner and entertainment!
- Souvenir kits are available at a cost of \$25. The kits are stuffed with the Souvenir Journal and a lot of goodies! If you purchase both the Gala ticket and kit, the *total cost* is \$90.
- T-shirts are available with the cost determined by the style. Short and long sleeve tees, short sleeve v neck and short and long sleeve polos. This year we have added hoodies which you may need in the playing area! Prices range from \$18.00 to \$45.00. We are asking that you wear your Spring National T-shirt on Thursday!
- Check your Game Schedule for other suggested shirt days! It has been a long tradition that we show off our favorite sport teams, alma maters, Greek affiliations, ethnic attire, etc.
- As a fundraiser, we have an ongoing Donor's Campaign! Many of you have already contributed, but we are looking for more Donors. We thank you for your generosity!

Again, thanks for coming and we are looking forward to a truly memorable Spring National. If we can help you with anything don't hesitate to ask.

Your Host Group

Meetings

NAME OF ACTIVITY	Date/Time	LOCATION	Chairman
Worship Service	4/7 8:30 am Sunday	Feature Room-Main Floor	Willetta Phipps
NTC	4/8 12 pm Monday	Hall Suite Level Bdrm	Deborah Cole
aba.ECF Board Mtg.	4/8 5-7 pm Monday	Hall Suite Level Bdrm	Clarice Reid
Bridge Education & Teacher Certification	4/8 6:30 pm Monday	TBD	Eunice Patton
NEW PLAYERS RECEPTION	4/9 After 1:30 Game Tuesday	Club 21 (By Invitation Only)	Reuben Schooler
Awards Ceremony and Dinner	4/10 7:00 pm Wednesday	David's Restaurant Dining Room	Willetta Phipps
General Membership Meeting	4/11 10:00 am Thursday	Headliner Room	Gloria Christler President
ABA Board Meeting	4/12 After Play Friday	Hall Suite Level Boardroom	Gloria Christler President

Who was Mrs. F. Alberta Peterson? F. Alberta Peterson, better known as "Miss Pete", first proposed the idea of a Scholarship Fund at an ABA general membership meeting in the 1960s. The Board of Directors approved it and assigned implementation to its Women's Committee, a committee formed in the 1960s when women comprised a significant majority of ABA members. In the beginning, money was raised for the Scholarship Fund through Unit-sponsored scholarship games and a midnight game held at the Summer National. The first F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Game was held at the 1970 Summer National in Atlanta. Today, the ABA additionally holds an annual Nationwide Scholarship Game, and Sections, Units, and clubs sponsor scholarship games as well. Using scholarship game proceeds, the ABA, through the F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Committee and the abaECF, Inc., currently awards \$1000 scholarships by Section to qualified students after their first year attending college. The Spring 2024 F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Game is dedicated in memory of **Worth Christler** who selflessly devoted himself in support of the abaECF, Inc.

WINNERS

Be sure and see our BULLETIN EDITOR, Margaret Johnson to get your picture taken and you will see yourself in the BULLETIN. She is available before game time usually in the playing area, or you can call her to schedule a time.

Team winners—hang around after your finals so she can take your picture at that time.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Who was George Hudson? George Hudson was the president of the ABA from 2011 to 2015. He was 17 years old when he was introduced to the world of bridge by his mother, a member of the ABA in St. Louis, MO. Bridge became his passion and life's focus, and he became a committed and dedicated ABA member. His passion and desire to make a difference led him to assume several leadership positions within the ABA:



Tournament Chair at all levels of the ABA, including NYC
Chair/

Treasurer of the NYC Community Bridge Home/ Bridge Teacher and Mentor/
Unit President of the Metropolitan Bridge Unit/ Eastern Section VP/ ABA President

As president of the ABA, George was very committed to New Players. It is most appropriate that the PRO-AM Game is named in his honor. He was always a gentleman with a great smile. No job was too big or too small for him to tackle.

On a personal note, the FLASH changed from 8 1/2" x 17" to its current size on his recommendation, making the FLASH easier to produce and to file save.
Editor

A colorful promotional poster for the American Bridge Association's Summer 2024 event in Atlanta. At the top, a purple banner reads "SUMMER 2024" in yellow. Below it, the text "EMPIRE CITY OF THE SOUTH!" is written in large, bold, light blue letters. The event dates "AUG. 2 thru AUG. 9 2024" and location "MARRIOTT MARQUIS" are prominently displayed in purple. A large, stylized "ABA" logo is on the left, and a "2024 ATL" logo is on the right. The central image shows a city skyline at night with a Ferris wheel, and the text "ATLANTA 2024" is overlaid. At the bottom, the word "ATLANTA" is written in large, colorful, stylized letters, and "Empire City of the South" is written in a cursive font. A small search icon is in the top right corner of the poster area.

FREE PLAYS AT 2024 SPRING NATIONAL

The ABA Board recently announced a new initiative to provide recognition and incentives to players that is rolling out during this Spring National. Qualifying players will receive all or part of their entry fee back using a free play certificate redeemable this week and/or during the Summer National in Atlanta.

If a pair game is not stratified, as long as there are more than five tables in play, (1) the first place winners will be awarded a free play worth one entry fee and (2) the second place winners will be awarded a free play worth one half an entry fee. If a pair game is stratified, the first place winners in each strat with more than five tables in play will be awarded a free play worth one entry fee.

The Board-A-Match will award one free play to each first place team member in each strat with more than five teams, worth one entry fee. If the Knock-Out has fewer than 12 teams in a flight, a free play will be awarded to each first place team member in that flight worth one entry fee. If 12 or more teams are entered in a flight, (1) one free play will be awarded to each first place team member in that flight worth one entry fee and (2) each of the second place team members will be awarded a free play worth one half an entry fee.

No free play will be awarded for Side Games or section tops. In the event of a tie, the award is halved. The **F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Game** and the **George Hudson Pro-Am Game** are not included. Certificates are not transferable or redeemable in cash. Winners may pick up their free play certificate in the National Office once the official results have been provided to the back office.

This initiative is the first of several under consideration to reward players across all fields. **It may be modified or terminated at any time without notice.** Please bear with us as we work through any kinks in the process and provide any feedback to your Section representatives on the NTC.

Grants available to Units and Clubs

As one of the ways it gives back to its membership, the ABA initiated a small grant program effective January 1, 2024. Grants between \$250 and \$500 are available to Units and clubs. Grants may be used for, among other things, bridge class materials and instructor stipends, supplies to host face-to-face games, director training and fees, reducing certain sanction fees, recruitment incentives, online classes for new ABA members, and/or paying for one game for new ABA members at Nationals. Eligible Units and clubs must be in good financial standing, host weekly face-to-face games, offer classes to their members, and have candidates for teacher certification and/or director certification. One application may be submitted each calendar year. An application may be obtained (1) on the Important Documents page of the ABA website or (2) upon a request directed to (a) the ABA National Office or (b) your Sectional Vice President. Completed applications will be evaluated quarterly by the Section Vice Presidents. To date, no Unit or club has applied for a grant. Please pass the word to your Units and clubs about this initiative.

AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, INC. CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

REGISTRATION for all games except those requiring pre-registration shall begin promptly one hour prior to scheduled game time and close 15 minutes prior to game time. Entries will be sold after close of registration only if it accommodates the requirements of the game.

DUAL REGISTRATIONS preclude Directors from having an accurate count for setting up the game and delay the start of the game. One-quarter board penalties may be assessed for this infraction.

ENTRY SLIPS that are not fully completed may delay processing scores. ABA **PLAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS** are singularly important to this process.

ASSEMBLY Players should be seated at their tables no later than five (5) minutes prior to game time to allow the director to verify the set up. As a courtesy to those waiting to take their seats at their tables, it is requested that all persons not registered for the event vacate the area until the game is underway.

THE DIRECTOR in CHARGE will give instructions for the game approximately five (5) minutes before game time. Your attention will be expected and appreciated.

SLOW PLAY It is not always possible to finish the round in the prescribed amount of time. However, as a courtesy to the field, it is expected that a diligent effort will be made to catch up on succeeding rounds. Pairs guilty of slow play should be reported to the Director, and penalties might be assessed for consistently slow play.

PROPRIETARIES Players are required to take every precaution to avoid seeing cards from boards they are yet to play. (Whenever cards are inadvertently seen from a board yet to be played, the Director should be summoned to determine whether the board can be played or if adjusted scores must be given.) Players should refrain from discussion of hands at the table or in the vicinity of other players while the game is in progress.

SCHEDULES All games on the National Tournament Schedule are assigned a grade level; Grade 1 (G - 1) through Grade 4 (G - 4). Masterpoints are awarded based on the grade level of the game. G-1 is the highest level, G - 4 is the lowest. The playing fee for all games is \$12.00 (other than the Scholarship game).

CONCURRENT PARTICIPATION No player is allowed to play in two multi-session games at the same time. 5th and 6th members of a team are permitted to play in single session games opposite the first round of the Major Knockout and Morning Knockout games. However, should their team progress to the next round, they will only receive masterpoints for the team game regardless of their finish in the single session game. 5th and 6th players are also permitted to play in single session games opposite the Board-A-Match team game. Players will not receive masterpoints from both games but only from the team game. Players entered in two games concurrently must play the entire single session game. Substitutes are not permitted. Players are not allowed to register for single session games opposite any round of the Knockout Teams other than the first. Players should notify the Director selling entries that they are playing in another game at the time of registration. Violation of these rules could result in disqualification from both games.

PROTEST PERIOD Scores will be displayed on the SCORE STANDS until the expiration of the PROTEST PERIOD. Information regarding the end of the PROTEST PERIOD will be printed on each score sheet that is posted. Scores of completed events will be available for inspection with the Supervisory Director.

SCORE CORRECTION Scores may require correction for two possible reasons: mistakes by the players making out score slips/entering into Bridgemates or errors not detected or introduced during the scoring process. In the first instance, where the players are at fault, there will be no correction of mistakes detected after the PROTEST PERIOD has expired. However, if the scoring process is the confirmed source of the error, a correction will be made whenever it is detected and reported. Scores that have been changed to incorporate corrections will be clearly marked as "REVISED or CORRECTED COPIES".

SEEDING ALL FIELD IV PAIR GAMES WILL BE SEEDED. Seeding will be based solely on the masterpoint holding of the top member of the pair for all persons with 10,000 or more masterpoints. The next criteria will be strength of partnerships and, finally, the strength of individual players with fewer than 10,000 masterpoints. Early registration is required to ensure proper seeding. Directors will register and assign seeded players for events where balancing the field is desirable. In the past, Directors have been seeking out top players to determine their intent to participate in upcoming events. The purpose is to include them in the seeding process. The proper procedure is that players must advise the Director or arrive early in the registration process to ensure they are properly seeded. If a player, regardless of his/her masterpoint ranking, shows up late and seeded slots have been filled, the game will not be delayed to reshuffle the field to accommodate the player. If a seeded slot is open, the player will be assigned to it, if not the player will be placed as best we can. Seeding at its best is an inexact process and a pair or two out of place should have little impact on the game.

THE OPEN CONVENTION CHART will be in use at all master point levels except 0 to 24. The Director will determine applicable conventions for their game to be approved by the NTA. The OPEN + CHART can only be used in National games with no upper master point restrictions and any bracket of a flight A or B Knockout which contains no team with an average master point holding of less than 1200. All special conventions must be submitted to the National Tournament Authority for advanced approval prior to use. The Open + Chart applies to all National Events with no upper master point limit in which the contestants play segments (same opponents) of 12 or more boards.

SCORE CORRECTION: Score correction blanks can be obtained from the Director. The PROTEST PERIOD expires as follows:

Morning Games	3:00 PM
Afternoon Games	10:00 PM
Evening & Midnight Games	12:00 Noon the next day

BIDDING BOXES will be used in all games. You are requested to close the bidding boxes at the end of the session.

BIDDING BOX PROCEDURE Some players illegally place pass cards on the table rather than in the bidding box and use them from this location. This can cause problems in a number of ways. An opponent can believe that a pass has been made when such a card has been accidentally touched or moved by a player. It also is a factor when a Director is called upon to rule about intent, a mechanical slip, or a change of mind since rulings in these situations are often based on which part of the bidding box the used card is extracted. Separating pass from the double and redouble cards allows for marked indecision in these areas. Players will keep all cards in the bidding boxes and use them accordingly.

ALERT PROCEDURES These procedures were designed to simplify and improve the alert process by directing attention to player protection from highly unusual and unexpected conventions and treatments. However, there are some extensions which address standard methods. All natural opening bids of 1NT other than 15-17 HCP require an announcement of range. Opening bids of one club/one diamond, which might be short, require an announcement, and these bids must be alerted if they are conventional. Doubles and redoubles require alerts only when these calls carry an unusual or unexpected message. These procedures will be enforced at ABA Tournaments.

HANDICAPPED PLAYERS are requested to pre-register to indicate their requirement for special seating. Players with obvious mobility problems will be given preference. Stationary East/West pairs will be discouraged.

CHECK CASHING POLICY Entry fees may be paid by personal check made payable to the ABA for the exact amount of the entry fee. The registrar may request ABA membership identification. A handling fee of \$25.00 will be charged on all returned checks. Returned checks must be redeemed within thirty days of notification to preclude suspension.

PARTNERSHIPS If you need a partner for any of the events at the Nationals, we will attempt to have a PARTNERSHIP TABLE outside the playing area each day. People will be there to assist you 30 minutes prior to each major event. REMEMBER - it is more likely that we can help you find a partner if you let us know prior to the event.

ZERO TOLERANCE The ABA Board of Directors has adopted a zero tolerance policy for the organization and it will be strictly enforced. Discourtesy in any form, by anyone to anyone, will not be tolerated. Repeated offenses will subject an offender to suspension from participation in a particular match. The National Tournament Authority will determine further participation in an event or the tournament. The National Appeals and Ethics Committee will address the issues that require disciplinary action beyond the end of the tournament.

PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES Use of cell phones or other portable audible communication devices are prohibited in the playing area after beginning of play. Any violation of this rule will result in a ¼ board penalty, as applicable. Hotel personnel, selected NTA personnel in the performance of their duties, and use in medical emergencies are the only exceptions to this rule.

NO SMOKING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PLAYING AREA OR THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS AT ANY TIME.

FIREARMS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE PLAYING AREA OR THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS.



Hand Records for each game,
other than TEAM Games
will be available after play
outside the playing area.





54 New Players

(10-299 MP's)

Show Up & Show Out!

April 6-12, 2024

It's going to be a great time at the tables !!!



Saturday DAY 1 April 6

- 10:00 AM Open Pairs
- 2:00 PM Open Pairs
- 7:30 PM ★ F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Game

Keep Calm and put on a Happy Face



Sunday DAY 2 April 7

8:30 AM **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

- 10:00 AM ★ George Hudson PRO-AM Game (AM's = 0-599 mp's) (complimentary refreshments provided for registered pairs)



* **BRIDGE EDUCATION: Selected Hand Review** (Immediately following PRO-AM Game)

- 2:00 PM Open Pairs
- 7:30 PM Open Pairs

Team Spirit

Monday DAY 3 April 8

- 9:00 AM Team Game (Registration by 7:30PM Sunday)
- 1:30 PM Open Pairs
- 6:30 PM * **LECTURE SERIES: Slam Bidding**
- 7:30 PM Open Pairs

Duh Duh Doubt!

Tuesday DAY 4 April 9

- 9:00 AM Open Pairs
- 1:30 PM Open Pairs
- ★ **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION** (Immediately following 1:30 game, Invitation Only)
- 7:30 PM Open Pairs

Wednesday DAY 5 April 10

- 9:00 AM Open Pairs
- * **BRIDGE EDUCATION: Selected Hand Review** (Immediately following 9 AM game)
- 1:30 PM Open Pairs

- 7:30 PM ★ **AWARDS CEREMONY and DINNER**



Thursday DAY 6 April 11

- 10:00 AM ★ **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
- 1:30 & 7:30 PM Board-A-Match (Registration by 7:30PM Wednesday)
- 6:30 PM * **LECTURE SERIES: Unbalanced Hands – Opening and Responding**
- 7:30 PM Open Pairs

Made a 7 No Trump! Luv this game!

Friday DAY 7 April 12

- 9:00 AM Open Pairs

Way to go, Partner! See you this summer in Atlanta!

54 Schedule

Cashless
Game Registration
Available



Show Up & Show Out!

April 6-12, 2024

It's going to be a great time at the tables !!!



Welcome

DAY 1 Saturday, April 6
 10AM Open Pairs (Only Session)
 2PM Open Pairs (Only Session)
 7:30PM ★ F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Game



My Bridge Club Day



DAY 2 Sunday, April 7
 8:30AM **WORSHIP SERVICE**
 10AM ★ George Hudson PRO-AM Game

2 & 7:30PM Mixed Pairs
 2 & 7:30PM Women's Pairs (2 sessions play thru)
 2PM Side Game
 7:30PM Side Game

Favorite Sports Team Day



DAY 3 Monday, April 8
 9AM Morning KO Teams (1st Round)
 (Registration by 7:30PM Sunday)
 9AM Side Game
 1:30 & 7:30PM CG Fredd KO Teams Championship
 (Registration by 7:30PM Sunday)
 1:30PM Side Game
 7:30PM Side Game



Greek Day

DAY 4 Tuesday, April 9
 9AM Morning KO Teams (2nd Round)
 9AM Side Game
 1:30 & 7:30PM CG Fredd KO Teams Semi-Finals/Finals
 1:30 Open Pair (only session)
 7:30PM Open Pair (Barometer scoring)

Ethnic Attire Day



DAY 5 Wednesday, April 10
 9:00 & 1:30PM Dan Scrivens Open Pairs
 9:00AM Side Game
 1:30PM Side Game
 7:00PM ★ AWARDS CEREMONY AND DINNER



Spring National Shirt Day

DAY 6 Thursday, April 11
 10:00AM ★ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 1:30 & 7:30PM Board-A-Match (Flighted – Stratified)
 (Registration by 7:30PM Wednesday)
 1:30PM Side Game
 7:30PM Side Game



DAY 7 Friday, April 12
 9AM Au Revoir Pairs
 9 AM Morning KO Teams Finals



Bye Bye
See you this summer
in Atlanta!