

'92 Spring National a huge success

Whew! Whew! What a slam! The 1992 Spring National was a tremendous success in every possible way! It is over but the exhilarating feeling lingers on and on. All of the advanced work by the national officers and the Triad Bridge Unit was beautifully coordinated. The talents and skills of the many personalities involved were blended in a most masterful manner so as to insure a high degree of success of the big event.

Some of the out-of-town players came in two days before the tournament started, along with national officers who were already here to do some fine tuning of plans and arrangements.

Triad Bridge Unit players stuffed souvenir kits on Friday evening. It was a pleasant surprise to have sold all of the souvenir kits by late Wednesday evening.

Directors for this national event met in their usual training session on Saturday prior to the tournament to prepare them for any and all situations during the play of various games. Come Sunday morning, Easter . . . many local members attended and participated in Easter Sunrise services and 11 a.m. worship services at their churches and others.

For the second consecutive year, members of the American Bridge Association (ABA) planned and held an interdenominational worship service in the ballroom of the Marque Hotel at 10:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday. The service was well attended. Barbara Vinzant organized and participated in the worship service. A full program of prayer and song was rendered, with the morning message delivered by Mrs. Gwendolyn Dervin, associate minister evangelist at Mount Olive Baptist Church (Winston-Salem). The membership was served a continental breakfast prior to the service, hosted by President Anita Troy.

By lunch time, people from all parts of the United States,

Canada, and some of the islands were checked in hotels and searching for places to dine.

Many local players assisted

and the *Winston-Salem Journal*. There may have been others that I am not aware of, but we are truly thankful to all of the media.

ed with the meeting with the executive board of ABA. All of the officers are super people and super leaders — and super bridge players. Next, I was impressed with the official photographer, A.B. (Lonnie) Crumes (Louisville, Ky.) and the work he did to cover the event. The *Flash* operation (official daily newspaper of the national tournament) was most impressive! They produced an informative paper that covered just about all one would want to know on the previous day. The scorers operation was fantastic! It's amazing how so many games could be scored so quickly. The awards operations was done by a true veteran of 30 years, Lucile Gayle. There are so many people that are due much credit for the success of the tournament. More names will be mentioned later, but Dr. Monica Lett did a super fantastic job! Lett was the Planning Committee chairperson for the Triad Bridge Unit and spent many, many hours of work coordinating the plans. Thank you Monica! To Olivia B. Thompkins, you did a yeoman's job of the souvenir bulletin. To Mary Andrews and her souvenir kit-stuffing crew, you did a great job. The souvenir kits sold out because of the great value of their contents. We are grateful to the many corporations and businesses that contributed items for the kits and the fine bags. To Ruth G. Washington, president of Triad Bridge Unit and all officers and members, you did a fantastic job. We all can feel proud! I must not forget the work of Marjorie Lester and her caddies. They helped make it all happen so well. Also, to Inez Gerald and the new players, thanks for a job well done!

I must end at this point, but could go on and on with compliments. Thanks to the fraternities and sororities for many ways of assisting us. To the entire Winston-Salem community and visiting bridge players, thank you for an "unforgettable" 1992 Spring National!

BRIDGE NEWS



By RUDOLPH V. BOONE SR.

in directing visitors to various eating facilities. As always, the veterans of these tournaments find their own way to the most reasonable places to feast. Due to the schedule, a number of people bought take-out meals and brought them back to hotels and playing areas to eat.

The games started Sunday night at 9 p.m., and what excitement! At that point, it appeared that the attendance would exceed many or all previous Spring Nationals. Earlier in the day, when local representatives met with the executive board of the ABA, all reports indicated that plans were on target and we were ready for assumption of the remaining responsibilities of being hosts.

The national officers were very complimentary of our plans. The news got around quickly that things were going great, so the enthusiasm became contagious.

Every day, the big day got bigger and better! Even the veterans of many, many national tournaments expressed pleasure in the experiences of this particular Spring National. The media, because of prior arrangements by Virginia "Vi" Clarke (Columbus, Ohio) and R.V. Boone, converged on the event to secure stories and coverage. The event was covered extensively by the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*. All of the ABA is grateful to the *Chronicle* for the generous coverage. Other media covering the tournament were television stations (Channels 12, 8, and 2), radio stations (WSJS and WAAA),

The many game directors are to be highly complimented for the excellent manner in which they conducted the games.

On the other hand, the directors were very complementary of the players for the cordiality to them. It is not easy for directors, but one must know what directors have to experience in order to understand what I am talking about. Just imagine things that could come up and need settlement!

One particular director, Dorothy Cumberbatch (New York) has been playing, teaching, and directing for some 30 years. She is a tough-talking, but very compassionate person. Before a game was completed, every player under her directing was more understanding and endeared to her. Charles Green, chief scorer, is a veteran of the directing crew. Hats off to all of the directors and caddies.

"Harlem Nights" was a great success! Many of the visitors to our city thoroughly enjoyed the games, entertainment, and dancing at and during this Wednesday night event. Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority implemented this event, chaired by Amy Repita Thompkins-Segers. Entertainment was provided by Janice Price and her group Priceless.

The writer of this column attempted to visit every tournament operation to learn just how so many things got done so well. I was highly impressed with the entire operation and the skilled people working. This personal experience start-

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WSSU set to graduate 100th class

Winston-Salem State University will graduate its 100th class at 9:45 a.m., Saturday, May 2, at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr. will confer baccalaureate degrees on approximately 420 graduates, making the Class of 1992 one of the largest in the institution's history.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Harry S. Wright, pastor of The Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dr. Wright, a former president of Bishop College in Dallas, Tex., received a doctor of ministry degree and a master of sacred theology degree from Southern Methodist University, also in Dallas. He is a graduate of Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y., and Morehouse College in Atlanta.

The public is invited to attend.

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