

## History of the Spingold

The Spingold Master Knockout Teams, first known as the Challenge Knockout Teams, was contested for the Asbury Park Trophy in the early days.

The runner-up team in the regularly-scheduled portion of the event had the right to challenge the winners to a playoff. This right was never utilized.

In 1934, 1936 and 1937, the Masters Teams-of-Four and the Asbury Park Trophy were separate events, providing two sets of winners.

In 1938 the event became the Spingold Master Knockout Teams and a part of the Summer NABC.

At one time, the Spingold was a double elimination event, usually lasting nine or 10 sessions. It was scored by International Match Points and was restricted to players with 100 or more masterpoints. In 1965, the double elimination method was replaced by three qualifying sessions (subsequently reduced to two), followed by single elimination knockout matches. The preliminary qualifying session were dropped in 1970.

The Spingold Trophy, donated by Nathan B. Spingold in 1934; the Vanderbilt Trophy, awarded to the winners of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams at the Spring NABC, and the Reisinger Memorial Trophy, donated by the Greater New York Bridge Association in memory of Curt H. Reisinger and awarded to the winners of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, are ACBL's most highly prized team trophies.

Spingold (1886-1958), a New York publicist, motion picture executive and patron of the arts, was one of the most influential men in bridge administration from 1937 to 1943.

Born in Chicago, he became a reporter on The Chicago Examiner, The Chicago Record Herald and The Chicago Tribune. Spingold's interest in show business brought him to New York City in the Thirties.

In 1932 he joined Columbia Pictures in a public relations capacity. He was named to the board of directors in 1940 and three years later was appointed vice president in charge of advertising, publicity and development. He became a vice president of the company in 1954.

Active in bridge from its earliest days, Spingold was named ABL Honorary Member in 1936. He was instrumental in effecting a peaceful merger between the American Bridge League and the United States Bridge Association in 1937 and became president of the newly formed American Contract Bridge League the following year. He served for many years on the League's Board of Governors and Board of Directors. Spingold was also president of the Cavendish Club