



**DECEMBER 2019**



**NEWSLETTER**

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

We will be holding all of our regularly scheduled games in December with the exception of Christmas Day.

New Years Day is on the first Wednesday of next year. Near the end of December we will ask who is interested in playing on New Year's Day. If there is sufficient interest, we will hold a game that day.

Here are a few other games of interest.

**Unit Charity Games – December 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.** These games award black masterpoints at over 80% if a Sectional rating.

**Dirty Dozen Handicapped Team Game – December 13<sup>th</sup>.** After last month's GNT Qualifying Game, we are back to our usual Dirty Dozen format.

**Sectional Tournament at Clubs (ST@C's) – December 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.** This is your last 2019 opportunity to win silver points at our club.

**Inter Club Championship – December 30<sup>th</sup>.** This is an ACBL wide event with percentage scores compared with those at all participating clubs.



**GAMES IN DECEMBER**

December is the final month of the year (but, you knew that) and the last month of silly season in ACBL Land. As we have for the last two months, we have again searched far and wide for special games to fill our schedule. There are two Charity Games, two Unit Championships, two Unit Charity Games, a GNT Fundraiser, and a Membership Game (**IMPORTANT NOTE – any partnership containing a non ACBL member is ineligible to win master points in a Membership Game.**)

**Game Schedule - December 2019**

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
2-Dec Charity Game	4-Dec Unit Championship	6-Dec GNT Fundraiser
9-Dec Unit Charity Game	11-Dec Unit Charity Game	13-Dec Dirty Dozen Teams Charity Game
16-Dec Holiday Party ST@C	18-Dec ST@C	20-Dec ST@C
23-Dec Unit Championship	<del>NO GAME</del> CHRISTMAS	27-Dec Membership Game
30-Dec Inter Club Championship Game	Happy New Year	

## HOLIDAY PARTY REMINDER

This year's **Holiday and Volunteer Appreciation Party** will be on **Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** **at the Woodside Plantation Country Club.**

Our bridge game will start at around 1:30, depending on how quickly our usual suspects can set up the room for bridge. After bridge, probably about 5:00, we will have a social hour (with cash bar) followed by a buffet dinner at six.

Here, in no particular order, are a few things to remember:

- The walk to the building entrance is sloped, so, if this is a problem for you, please arrange for someone to drop you off at the entrance.
- We are not allowed to bring any of our usual treats to the venue, so, if you need an afternoon sugar (or whatever) fix or two, bring your own. Coffee and water will be available.
- **The Country Club has a no denim policy which we are expected to adhere to.**
- If you don't sign up, please don't show up.

As of the end of November, we have 86 signed up to play bridge and 104 for dinner.

Sign up for the party ends Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, which is also the last day to pay any surcharges for yourself or your spouse. Phoebe is in charge of sign up and surcharge collection. If you sign up and pay, you may cancel and get a refund as long as it is by December 11<sup>th</sup>. After that, we are locked in to our guarantee to Woodside so no refunds are possible.

For those of you using a GPS, the address of the country club is 1000 Woodside Plantation Drive, Aiken, SC 29803. For the rest of you: if you enter Woodside via Main Gate (on Silver Bluff) turn left on Woodside Plantation Drive (first street after entrance) and just keep keeping on till you get there. It's a tad down the road from the intersection of Woodside Plantation Drive and Holley Lake Drive (on right side of the street and East Gate Drive on left side) and is on the right hand side of the road. If you enter from East Gate Drive off Whiskey Road (the stoplight between the Publix shopping center and the Aiken Mall), go straight until you reach Woodside Plantation Drive (second stop sign after Woodside entrance) and turn left. It's the same tad down the road.

When you get to the entrance gate, tell the attendant you are going to the Aiken Bridge Club event at the country club.

## ANNUAL ELECTION

Our annual election is fast approaching. In January, we will elect two Board Members to three year terms. The current incumbents, Cathie Lindler and Phyllis Pellarin are both eligible to run for reelection, but have indicated they will not be seeking reelection.

I would like to thank Cathie and Phyllis for their service to our club as Board Members. Additional thanks to Cathie for her outstanding work as Board Secretary for the last three years.

A Nominating Committee of Phyllis Pellarin (Chairperson), Linda Knox and Frank Shallo has been established to accept nominations to fill these two vacancies. If you are interested in running for these positions, simply talk to one of them. For additional information on the positions, please talk to the incumbents or any other present or past Board Member.

In my opinion, the only requirement for any of these positions is the desire to make our club the best it can be. A sense of humor certainly does not hurt. I would hope that some of you who have never thought about doing this would consider giving it a go.

To ensure your name is on the ballot, the Nominating Committee must be aware of your desire to run by Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. While our election procedures allow write-in votes, my observation is that being a write-in candidate is equivalent to being a non-candidate.

Ballots, and voting instructions, will be available at the Club on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the voting period will end at the conclusion of the Annual Membership Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. **Our By-Laws define voting members as those who have paid their 2020 Membership Dues prior to the end of the Annual Membership Meeting and have played at the Croft House six times since the previous annual meeting.**

**NOTE: Our Treasurer, Mike, will begin collecting 2020 Membership Dues at the club on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your current membership and its attendant benefits expire on the last day of the year. The Annual Dues remain at ten dollars.**

## BOARD MEETING REPORT

The latest meeting of your Board was held on November 13, 2019. Following is a very brief summary of the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mike reported that for the ten months ending in October, the Club ran a surplus of about \$8000 which includes an \$1800 gain on our Sectional Tournament.

**Holiday Party Update** – Phoebe reported that preparations for the event are complete and we are ready to go. The price per person has increased but everything else will be much like last year. She will begin sign up and surcharge collection on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**By-Laws Re-write** – Ron reported that no progress has been made in the possible re-write of our By-Laws. The plan is to complete the re-write during 2020 and include the ratification vote on the January, 2021 ballot. Discussion about the Club Manager appointing the Treasurer was continued from the last meeting. The Board consensus was there should be no non elected Board members.

**Nominating Committee Chairperson** – Phyllis Pellarin volunteered to take on this responsibility. Linda Knox (attending member) volunteered to serve on the Committee.

**Croft House Lease** – The 2020 lease with Croft House was approved with the rent increasing \$25 to \$400 monthly.

**Charity Game Donation** – The accumulated funds from our local Charity Games will be contributed to Croft House specifically for their lunch program.

**Game Type Viability** – Pro-Am, Individual, and Team Games were discussed at length. All have their own set of differing issues. Nothing was decided other than Ron needs to do something about it.

## ANIMAL CRACKERS ANSWERS

Last month's newsletter included a word game called "Animal Crackers" in which you were to supply a punny answer to a series of questions.

Here's the example given to give an idea of the type of answer required.

Q: How do a dentist and a manicurist fight?

A: Tooth and nail.

Following are the answers to the ten questions in the word game.

1. Why did the man name his dog Timex?

*It was a watchdog.*

2. Why are owls so apathetic?

*They don't give a hoot.*

3. Who does a duck see when it has laryngitis?

*A quack doctor.*

4. What do you call a short elephant?

*Truncated.*

5. Why are some horses even tempered?

*They were raised in a stable environment.*

6. Why couldn't the chicken find her eggs?

*She mislaid them.*

7. Why don't leopards play hide-go-seek?

*They're always spotted.*

8. What do you call an unborn baby rabbit?

*An ingrown hare.*

9. Why do bees have sticky hair?

*They use a honeycomb.*

10. How does a flock of crows swear?

*They caw cuss.*





