



AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



Sunday	Monday F2F	Tuesday BBO	Wednesday F2F	Thursday	Friday BBO	Saturday	All games start at 1:00
	1 Open Pairs	2 BBO	3 Open Pairs	4	5 BBO Open	6	
7	8 Open Pairs	9 BBO	10 NAP	11 LUNCH	12 BBO Open	13	F2F games at Lessie Price Center
14	15 STaC	16 BBO	17 STaC	18	19 BBO Open	20	
21	22 Team NAP	23 BBO	24 CLUB CHAMP	25	26 BBO Open	27	
28	29 CLUB CHAMP	30 BBO	31 NAP				

The ACBL does not always notify us about special games in time for the newsletter. We will send an email for any changes.

Swiss Team Game, Monday, August 22nd

Lessie Price Center
Game at 1:00 pm

Contact Sherry if you need help putting a team together

The Registration Form is on the Website

Just a Reminder

BBO games Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:00 pm

F2F Games Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

NO F2F GAME ON LABOR DAY

The Guaranteed Partner Program is on hiatus for the summer. Please call Joanne Sheehan if you want to play in an Aiken Bridge Club game. Joanne will try to match you up with another player who also needs a partner

Pigmented Point Games In August:

STaC Aug 15 and 17 (Silver)

NAP Aug 10, 22 and 31 (Red/Black)

We are always looking for material and suggestions for newsletter articles. We would like to start a Q&A, subject to the limitations of the editor. Contact Jay Jacobs with your idea or questions. jayjacobs44@gmail.com

We hope you have been to our website and viewed the In Memoriam Section from the left-hand side menu. If you have someone from our ABC Bridge Club that you would like us to remember, please provide a write-up on the person and a photo if possible.

ABC In Memoriam

TEAM GAME WINNERS FROM JULY 25TH



From Left to Right: Lynn Pope, Phyllis Pellarin, Bill McGhee and Bea McGhee

We had our second team game on Monday, July 25th at the Lessie Price Center. The team of Pope, Pellarin and the McGhees' came in first with 54 Victory Points and edged out the team of Rinehart, Parish, Ingram, and Mayenschein who place second with 53 Victory Points. We hope everyone enjoyed the competition and comradery.

ACBL Rank Changes for Aiken Bridge Club Members

Dori Cartright	Gold Life Master
Pat Sims	Silver Life Master
Sherry Buck	Life Master
Bill Parks	Adv NABC Master
Stella Donelan	NABC Master
Jim Hart	NABC Master
Martha Meir	NABC Master
Andy Hallen	Junior Master

Congratulations to All!

Free Play for the Month of August

The Aiken Bridge Club continues to be in a good financial position despite the pandemic. We are seeing a decrease in the number of tables (both F2F and BBO). We are hoping that is due to summer travel. In order to encourage more participation in our games, the Board has approved a proposal to not charge "long-term" members any game fees for all games in the month of August! The intent is to return some of the money in our bank accounts to those of you who have consistently paid dues and game fees to the Aiken Club over the years.

This will obviously be more easily done for F2F games since we will simply not collect a game fee from long-term members. For BBO, that option is not possible. We have made an inquiry to ACBL and will be working to hopefully develop a way to send one check to BBO and have them credit a portion of it to our member's BBO accounts based on the number of games they have played. We do not want to get into an accounting nightmare, so please be patient with us as we seek to finalize a way to make this happen for those who play in the Club's online games. Note this free play will NOT apply to those who are playing in consortium games. We estimate we are losing 1-2 tables to consortium play each day we play, and we really would like to see those folks come back to our local Club games.

The Board feels a reasonable description of a "long-term" member is someone who has paid dues to the Club and played in a substantial number of our games for a four year period. Most of you will know if you meet this description. We don't wish to get into any debates about who does or does not, so we will leave it on an "honor" system.

We look forward to seeing you at the Lessie Price Center and/or on-line for more games!

Members of the Bridge Club meet for lunch at 1:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month at O'Charley's. Contact Dorothy Johnson (803-443-5500) for details.

As many of you know, Dorothy has been providing Bridge Lessons at the Lessie Price Center on Wednesdays from 11:30 – 12:30. Our hope is that this will help us grow the game of bridge in Aiken. If you know someone who is interested in improving their bridge game, let them know about this opportunity.

EDITOR'S NOTES

My apologies for the long newsletter, but there is a lot to say.

Expanding on my request for questions and Q&A, I would like to note I am starting to run low on ideas for future columns. Since this is YOUR newsletter, I strongly request help from you either as suggestions or (gasp) someone else could write a column here and there. Otherwise, the newsletter risks devolving into a calendar with bad jokes.

On a different note, many people inquired about my health, so here is an update. In late December, after years of deteriorating kidney function, my nephrologist said it was time to start dialysis. In January, my blood doctor told me my blood condition, previously under control, morphed into leukemia and I needed to start chemotherapy.

Dialysis is 3 times a week for 4-5 hours. It is painless, but boring. Chemotherapy is 1 week on and 3 weeks off for about 2+ hours per session. It is painless, my hair does not fall out, nor am I nauseous. I am now considered "in remission." But my immune system remains highly compromised so I have to be very careful about where I go and what I do. Chemo continues indefinitely, as does a regimen of antibiotics to ward off infection.

I recently asked my doctor about playing F2F bridge. He said that it was too high risk and mentioned his answer would have been the same even before COVID. So, I can play on the internet, but not live.

Dialysis and chemotherapy, doctor visits, and regular blood tests, are time consuming, making it hard for me to play on a consistent basis. I otherwise feel OK, albeit tired a lot. I feel mentally acute, yet, whenever I forget something, Judy threatens to take me to the neurologist.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Jay

Anti-Social Club

The Antisocial Club meets every week at Jim's Bar. Since they are so antisocial, however, everyone always sits as far as possible from the other members, and no one ever sits right next to another member. Because of this, the 25-stool bar is almost always less than half full and unfortunately for Jim the members that don't sit at the bar don't order any drinks. Jim, however, is pretty smart and makes up a new rule: The first person to sit at the bar has to sit at one of two particular stools. If this happens, then the maximum number of members will sit at the bar. Which stools must be chosen? Assume the stools are numbered 1 to 25 and are arranged in a straight line.

LOSING TRICK COUNT

Losing Trick Count (LTC) is a form of hand evaluation based on an assessment of losers. It applies only to suit fits, not notrump. When a fit is determined, add the number of losers (discussed below) in your hand to the number of losers in partner's hand, based on their bidding; then subtract the total from (1) 24 = the number of tricks you can take in trump, assuming normal distributions and finesses working half the time, or (2) 18 = how many tricks you are likely to make. This is a statistical approach (*as is the Law of Total Tricks and Restricted Choice*), but, like them, it generally works.

1. Count losers in your hand

Suit	Losers
Void, singleton ace, or doubleton AK	0
Any non-ace singleton, A-x, K-x	1*
Any doubleton not containing A or K	2
A-Q or K-Q doubleton	1
In each suit (including trump) with 3 or more cards	1 loser for each missing A, K, or Q, but no more than 3 losers in any suit #
A-J-10	1
K-J-10	1½
A-x-x or K-x-x	2*
Q-x-x	3, unless it is trump, a suit bid by partner, or you also have the J
*some people count K-x as 1½ losers and K-x-x as 2½ losers	
# thus, A-K-Q = 0; and A-K-x, A-Q-x, or K-Q-x = 1; and A-x-x, K-x-x, and Q-x-x = 2	

Consequently, hands with an A, K, or Q (unless the Q is doubleton or singleton) have a maximum of 12 losers, but may have fewer depending on distribution. For example, a hand with J-x-x-x, J-x-x, J-x-x, J-x-x has 12 losers (= 3 in each suit – the 4th card in one suit is not a loser since the maximum losers in any suit =3). A hand with 5-4-4 distribution with no card higher than a jack has 9 losers (= 3 in each suit, except the void which has 0 losers).

Open the bidding with (a) not more than 7 losers, (b) adequate high card values, including at least two defensive tricks (eliminates highly distributional hands with few points, such as 7-6 or 6-6-1, which have 6 and 7 losers, respectively, but little trick taking ability unless one of their two suits is trump), and (c) a sound rebid.

A response in a new suit at the one level shows not more than 9 losers (sometimes 10 with compensating values and at the two level shows not more than 8 losers (sometimes 9 with compensating values).

Second round bids:

Opener's bid	Shows
Neutral rebid (= rebid your suit, bid intervening suit lower than original suit, or support partner's suit)	7 losers
Jump in original suit	7 winners and, usually, 5 losers
Reverse at 2 level	5 losers (sometimes 6 with high point count)
Reverse at 3 level	Not more than 5 losers

Responder's bid	Shows
Jump in original suit	6 losers
Reverse at 2 level	6-7 losers
Reverse at 3 level	Not more than 6 losers

Adjust the original count for losers in light of the bidding. Consider length, strength, and control of the trump suit. Subtract a loser with a known 9 card trump fit. Deduct a loser when the number of aces or other key features (e.g., well placed king or singleton) is better than the bidding shows.

2. Estimate losers in partner's hand

Without further information from the bidding, assume a typical opening hand by partner contains 7 losers (e.g., A-K-x-x-x, A-x-x-x, Q-x, x-x = 1 +2 +2 +2 =7).

3. Deduct the total from 24 or 18

Deduct the sum of losers in your hand and partners hand from (1) 24 to get an estimate of total tricks the partnership can normally expect to win and, consequently, how high it is safe to bid, or (2) from 18 to estimate the bidding level the partnership can expect to make.

There is also a New Losing Trick Count (NLTC) that makes some adjustments to the above. It becomes increasingly complex, so we'll stick with the original LTC.

Note that the flatter the hand, the less well LTC works, while more distributional hands favor LTC. Sometimes you need a reality check to assess your actual status, especially with highly distributional, but low HCP hands. This could go in either direction depending on where each partner has shortness and/or controls. In such hands, remember, as in point count, aces (especially) and kings are undervalued.

LTC is only valid when there is a known trump fit (4-4, 5-3, or better). Even then, take care not to double count values in the same suit – e.g., K-Q-x-x (= 1 loser) opposite a singleton (= 1 loser). But there are not two losers in that suit. When you have high cards working together across the two hands, you do better and, conversely, when you don't, you do worse. Hopefully, you can tell this from the bidding, including rebids, help suit game tries, belated support, etc.

SIGNS TO GET YOUR ATTENTION OR AT LEAST A LAUGH .. (*thanks to Ernie Levinson*)

Did I read that sign right? – “toilet out of order; please use floor below”

In a Laundromat – “automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out”

In a department store – “bargain basement upstairs”

In an office – “would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken”

In an office – “after tea break staff should empty and rinse the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board”

Outside a secondhand shop – “we exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc.; why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?”

Notice in health food shop window – “closed due to illness”

Spotted in a safari park – “elephants, please stay in your car”

Seen during a conference – “for anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor”

Notice in a farmer's field – “the farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges”

Message on a leaflet – “if you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons”

On a repair shop door – “we can repair anything; (please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work)”

ANSWER TO ANTI-SOCIAL CLUB

The first person must take either stool 9 or 17 (due to symmetry, it doesn't matter which). Assume they pick seat 9. The next person will pick seat 25, since it is the furthest from seat 9. The next two people will take seats 1 and 17. The next three will occupy 5, 13, and 21. The next six will occupy 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, and 23. This seats the maximum of 13 people, and no one is sitting next to another person. If a seat other than 9 or 17 is chosen first, the total bar patrons will be less than 13.