



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Sunday	Monday BBO	Tuesday	Wednesday F2F	Thursday	Friday BBO	Saturday	All games start 1:30
			1 Upgraded Club Championship	2	3	4	
5	6 Open Pairs	7	8 STaC	9	10 Open Pairs	11	F2F games at Lessie Price Senior Center
12	13 Open Pairs.	14	15 Club Champ	16	17 Open Pairs	18	
19	20 Open Pairs	21	22 Club Champ	23	24 Christmas Eve	25	
26	27 Open Pairs	28	29 Club Champ	30	31 Open Pairs		

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

HAPPENINGS

The Annual ABC Holiday Party is scheduled for Tuesday Dec. 21 at 5:30 for Happy Hour (cash bar) with dinner at approximately 6:30 at Newberry Hall (117 Newberry St., Aiken). Members are free and guests / spouses / significant others, etc. are \$20. Reservations are open until Dec. 1. Contact Linda Knox (803-514-2243) or Lauren Alexander (803-606-8496). Dinner is a buffet of Chicken Florentine and Top Beef Sirloin, with sides and salads, beverage, and choice of two deserts. Be there or be o.

Revisions have been proposed to our bylaws. You should have received an email with the appropriate information. If not, contact any Board Member. Please vote.

Elections for Board Members are scheduled for January. If you would like to be a candidate or nominate someone, see a Board Member or one of the directors.

Members of the Bridge Club meet for lunch at 1 PM on the second Thursday of each month at O'Charleys (note change of venue). Contact Dorothy Johnson for details.

The Guaranteed Partner Program exists for Wednesday F2F games. Volunteers get one free play card and play for free that day if needed. Linda Knox (803-514-2243) is coordinating the GPP and is looking for volunteers. The Program 's success depends on you.

ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD

Roman Key Card Blackwood is similar to regular Blackwood except that it adds a 5th key card – the king of trump. So, there are 5 key cards = 4 aces + the trump king. Thus, you cannot use Key Card Blackwood without agreement on a trump suit.

Generally, the agreed-upon suit is based on the following priorities:

1. The only supported suit
2. The suit must recently shown or raised by the Blackwood bidder
3. The only shown suit
4. The most recently shown suit

However, responder's suit is the agreed suit if responder has made a strong jump shift. Opener's only bid suit is the agreed suit after a 2C opening.

There are two variations, as shown below side by side with regular Blackwood:

	<u>Key Card 0314</u>	<u>Key Card 1430</u>	<u>Blackwood</u>
5C	0 or 3 key cards	1 or 4 key cards	0 or 4 aces
5D	1 or 4 key cards	0 or 3 key cards	1 aces
5H	2 key cards <u>without</u> the trump queen		2 aces
5S	2 key cards <u>with</u> the trump queen		3 aces

Generally, you do not want to ask for key cards or aces with a void, since controls in that suit represent duplication. NEVER answer 4NT treating a void as an ace. Partner may bash into 6NT thinking you have a stopper. (More about what to do with voids below.) Likewise, Key Card is oriented toward the majors, since an unwanted 5H or 5S may push you to the 6 level in a minor off two aces. Likewise, it may be disadvantageous to use Key Card if trump is hearts and you would be forced to the 6 level by a 5S response.

As a rule of thumb, many people also treat a known 10+ card fit as if they have the queen of trump, even if they don't. You lose when the queen sits 3 times and you guess wrong, but most of the time the suit will split 2-1 and the queen will drop if neither partner has it. If the 4NT bidder has the queen and partner responds 5S, they know there is at least a 10 card fit.

Although originally in the 0314 format, the 1430 format has become more popular since it provides a little more flexibility. After a response of 5C (1 or 4 key cards), a bid a 5D is a queen-ask. Responder then bids 5H without the trump queen and 5S with the trump queen. While this can also be used over 0314 (0 or 3 key cards), you are much more likely to pursue slam when partner has one key card, vs. no key cards.

Presumably, after a 5D bid, if spades are trump, then 5H by asker is a queen-ask. After the queen-ask, a bid of 6 of the trump suit or 5NT (when spades are your suit) shows the queen and no outside king. A cue-bid shows second round control (you already asked for aces, so it must be king or singleton) AND the trump queen.

Over a 5NT followup to 4NT, there are two different approaches. Make sure you discuss which you are using with your partner. One approach follows standard Blackwood – that is, 6C = 0 king, 6D = 1 king, 6H = 2 kings, 6S = 3 kings. The other approach is to bid kings up the line. So, a bid of 6C indicates the king of clubs. A bid of 6D denies the king of clubs but shows the king of diamonds. A bid of 6H denies any kings below hearts and is a signoff if hearts is your suit. If spades is your suit, 6H shows the king of hearts. In this approach, you have no way to show kings above your suit unless you want to commit to the 7 level, but you have otherwise pinpointed which king you have. So, if you bid 6C, indicating the king of clubs and partner bids 6D, they are showing the king of diamonds. Also, discuss with your partner whether you consider second round control (i.e., a singleton) equivalent to a king. The problem that can arise is that partner thinks you have a king and decides to bid NT.

When responder has a void, a 5NT response to 4NT shows two key cards and a void. A jump to the 6 level shows one key card and a void. You bid the void suit if it is below your trump suit (thus, when hearts are trump, 6D = 1 key card and a diamond void) and bid 6 of your trump suit if the void is above your suit (thus, if hearts are trump, 6H = 1 key card and a spade void).

Even if you don't know or follow all the ins and outs, Key Card seems superior to regular Blackwood, since it provides more information. Clearly, over NT, you are using Blackwood, since no suit has been determined. But, remember, a direct raise of 1NT or 2NT to 4NT or 5NT is invitational, not Blackwood.

WHAT DOES THIS REBUS REPRESENT?

1. Bob drowned Frosted Flakes
2. Joe buried Cap'n Crunch
3. Sarah threw Rice Krispies off a cliff
4. Emily shot Cocoa Puffs

(ANSWER BELOW)

Did you hear about the farmer who won the lottery? When asked what he was going to do, he said: "I guess I'll just keep farming until the money runs out."

LIGHTNER DOUBLES

Lightner Doubles are lead-directing doubles of slam, and occasionally 3NT, contracts. Penalty doubles in these situations tend to gain little (if you set the opponents in a slam contract, you generally have a good score), Lightner suggested that the opening lead should be something unconventional. It asks for an unusual lead. For example, if our side has bid a suit along the way, it discourages that suit. It also discourages a trump lead and, by implication, unbid suits, as the leader would generally make one of those leads. A common interpretation is to lead the first bid suit by dummy. Sometimes the opening leader will have to think (gasp) to figure out what the doubler wants. Generally, you are looking to ruff the opening lead or have two top tricks in that suit and hope to cash out before declarer can get in and pull trump / throw away losers.

While mostly applying to slams, Lightner Doubles can be used with 3NT when the doubler has a stack behind dummy's first bid suit and wants that suit led. So, doubles of 3NT either mean you have a stack in dummy's first bid suit or you can defeat 3NT regardless of what is led.

Since the presumption behind Lightner doubles is that you have to get your tricks off the top, the only other reason to double a freely bid slam is if you can defeat it in your own hand, and that usually means you should have at least one trump trick.

FLASH GORDON

Flash Gordon has been captured by the evil emperor, Ming the Merciless. Ming says he will give Flash one chance to live. He brings out 50 green balls and 50 orange balls, and two large jars. He tells Flash he can put as many balls of each color as he wants in each jar, but must put all the balls in one or the other of the jars. He will then be blindfolded and must pick one of the jars. From that jar, he will pick a ball. If the ball is green, Flash goes free, but if the ball is orange, Flash will be killed immediately. How can Flash distribute the balls to maximize his chances. (ANSWER BELOW)

SOME BIG NUMBERS

For every human being on earth, there are 170 million insects

There are more stars in the sky than grains of sands on earth

There are more stars in the sky than all the words every spoken by all humans

90 percent of the cells in your body are actually bacteria =100 trillion microbes living on your skin, in your gut, up your nostrils, etc.

OBSERVATIONS (COMPLIMENTS OF STEVE BANWARTH)

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

A cold seat in a public restroom is unpleasant. A warm seat in a public restroom is worse.

Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.

Don't irritate old people. The older we get, the less "Life in prison" is as a deterrent.

Have you ever listened to someone for a minute and thought, "Their cornbread isn't done in the middle."

I asked my wife if I was the only one she had ever been with. She said yes, all the others were nines and tens.

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

It turns out that being an adult now is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

I miss the '90s when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think "That can't be accurate."

I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

As I watch this new generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

Confuse your Doctor by putting on rubber gloves at the same time he does.

For our anniversary, my wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make food right in front of you. I took her to Subway. That's when the fight started.

I went line dancing last night. OK, it was a roadside sobriety test ... same thing.

RELIGIOUS COMPARISONS

Jews don't recognize Jesus.

Protestants don't recognize Trans-Substantiation.

Baptists don't recognize each other in the liquor store on Saturday night.

WHY MEN SHOULD NOT BE ADVICE COLUMNISTS (THANKS TO MILES HALL)

Dear John (Advice Columnist),

I hope that you can help me. The other day I set off for work, leaving my husband in the house watching TV. My car stalled and then it broke down about a mile down the road, and I had to walk back to get my husband's help. When I got home, I couldn't believe my eyes. He was in our bedroom with the neighbor's daughter!

I am 32, my husband is 34, and the neighbor's daughter is 19. We have been married for 10 years. When I confronted him, he broke down and admitted they had been having an affair for the past six months. He won't go into counseling, and I'm afraid I am a wreck and need advice urgently. Can you please help?

Sincerely,

Sheila

Dear Sheila,

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults with the engine. Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the vacuum pipes and hoses on the intake manifold and also check all grounding wires. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the injectors.

I hope this helps,

John

ANSWER TO REBUS

Cereal killers.

ANSWER TO FLASH GORDON

Flash puts one green ball in the first jar and the other 99 balls in the second jar. If he picks the first jar (a 50% chance), he's OK. If he picks the second jar, he still has a 49/99 (approximately 49.5%) chance. This makes his overall chance slightly less than 75%.