



FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Sunday	Monday BBO	Tuesday	Wednesday F2F	Thursday	Friday BBO	Saturday	All games start at 1:30 F2F games at Lessie Price Center
		1	2 Club Champ	3	4 Open Pairs	5	
6	7 Open Pairs	8	9 Open Pairs	10	11 Open Pairs	12	
13	14 Open Pairs	15	16 Ed Foundation	17 LUNCH	18 Open Pairs	19	
20	21 Ed Foundation	22	23 Ed Foundation	24	25 Ed Foundation	26	
27	28 Open Pairs	25	26 Ed Foundation	27	28 Open Pairs		
<p>The ACBL does not always notify us about special games in time for the newsletter. We will send an email for any changes.</p>							

Status Changes in 2021

The Aiken Bridge Club would like to acknowledge the following members who achieved new ACBL Ranks during the last ten months.

Bill Parks	NABC Master
Yancey Paschall	Life Master
Amy Buck	Advance NABC Master
Pat Biebel	NABC Master
Harold Moore	Diamond Life Master
Melissa Kaufmann	NABC Master
Jay Jacobs	Gold Life Master

Congratulations to all of you!

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

IN MEMORIAM

Reid Bohning John Gray
Annie Hawkins Ron Jaeger Dot Veasey

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

We are always looking for material and suggestions for articles in the newsletter. Contact Jay Jacobs with your ideas: jayjacobs44@gmail.com

2021 Annual Report of Aiken Bridge Club

Like 2020, this year brought some major changes to our Club. The most significant was our return to F2F bridge for those who prefer that experience. Many thanks are owed to Linda Knox and Alan Brooks for following up on the contact Mike McComb had originally made with the Lessie Price Center in March 2020 when we had to stop playing at the Croft House. While both have their advantages, I believe everyone is enjoying the light airy playing space with plenty of asphalt parking spaces. Our continued discussions with LPC management about potentially adding a second F2F have not resulted in any workable solutions. We seem to be averaging 8-9 tables each Wednesday.

The passing of Ron Jaeger in September was a serious blow to our club. We not only lost a good friend and highly regarded bridge player, but also someone who was doing so many things for our Club. For too long the Club had relied solely on the Club Manager to do nearly everything with the exception of the Treasurer's role. Hopefully we all, as an entire club, learned from this experience, and will all be willing to do a small part in making the Club function moving forward.

The Board is dedicated to spreading the load so that more people will hopefully be willing to do some of the tasks that need to be done to make the Club function. Having multiple people trained in all aspects so there is backup when someone encounters a personal issue is critical to the Club's survival. For example, come February both Jay Jacobs and Alan Brooks will likely be unable to get to the Price Center. This means there are only two individuals trained on running the computer for the F2F games and directing. The Board has decided we can split those duties to hopefully increase the roster of trained people available, but we need your willingness to help out. Contact any Board member if you can help with either the computer or directing the game.

The participation in our online games has dropped off with the initiation of our F2F games, but has remained steady at about nine tables per session over the last half of the year. We believe the drop-off is also affected by F2F bridge restarting in Augusta and Columbia, as well as a number of people playing online in consortium games. Prior to his death, Ron made some type of arrangement with the SE/Knoxville consortium (though we have no record of what he did, unless one of you can tell us!). Anyway, we believe all our members are registered with SE/Knoxville and we believe we receive some remuneration when you play in those games.

Around October, Sherry Buck took on the task of updating our website. The new website looks fantastic and needs to become your first option when you are wondering about something related to the Club. If you can't find something, please let us know, so we can continue to improve the website to serve you as members. Our heartfelt thanks to Sherry for making this significant improvement become reality. By the way, someone besides Sherry needs to know how to update the website – can you help?

In late November the Club ratified new bylaws that had been drafted by Ron, Jay, and Steve Banwarth. The purpose of the update was to reflect the more electronic way in which the Club is functioning as a result of the pandemic and the aging of our members. The bylaws proposed by the Board were approved unanimously by all who took the time to vote. We appreciate the faith you have put in us to lead this Club in order to provide you the opportunity to play competitive bridge in a friendly and safe environment, both on-line and face-to-face. The bylaws call for a six-member Board serving two-year terms. However, given our ages and health conditions, we fully realize that resignations are something we have to anticipate and accept.

Another learning from Ron's passing was that we have the Club's information and historical documents scattered among various people. To rectify this situation, we have put everything on the computer Alan uses to direct the games, and have also purchased a new computer that we intend to use for ALL Club business, including running the F2F games. The old computer we are currently using will be used only as a backup, but will also be periodically updated with all documents. The Board is also discussing cloud storage of our documents.

Finally, your support of the club through both on-line and F2F games has allowed the Club to make four significant donations to local charities at the end of 2021. As noted in the January newsletter, the four recipients for 2021 were Aiken Senior Life Services, St. Vincent de Paul, Aiken Elementary Backpack program, and Animal Advocates. A total of \$2600 was donated.

Mike McComb on behalf of the Board of Directors (Lauren Alexander, Christine Gasperini, Linda Knox, Sherry Buck, and Marc Carney)

2021 Annual Report of Finances for Aiken Bridge Club

Total Ledger Expenses	\$ 21,315	Total Ledger Income	\$ 21,122
Transfer to CD	\$ 5,000	Game Fee Revenue	\$ 18,174
Appreciation Amts	\$ 4,300 (26%)	Membership Fees	\$ 40
ACBL Fees	\$ 4,025 (25%)	Holiday Party Income	\$ 308
Charitable Cont	\$ 3,202 (20%)	Transfer From MM Acct	\$ 2,600
Holiday Party Exp	\$ 2,655 (16%)	Tourney Income	\$ 00
Food (pre-pandemic)	\$ 782 (5%)		
Durable Item Exp	\$ 641 (4%)		
Miscellaneous Exp	\$ 383 (2%)		
Rent Storage Unit	\$ 313 (2%)		
Tourney Expenses	\$ 00		

We had 110 members who are considered to have paid dues for 2021.

Interest for the year was \$ 255

BERGEN RAISES

Developed by Marty Bergen, Bergen Raises (BR) give responder more ways to raise opener's major suit by differentiating between 3 and 4 card support and among various point ranges. Responses are as follows:

With ...	Bid ...
4-6 HCP, 3 card support	1NT forcing, then bid 2 of major over opener's response
6-9 HCP, 3 card support	2 of major
6-9 HCP, 4 card support	3C
10-11 HCP, 4 card support	3D
0-5 HCP, 4+ trump support	3 of major
Singleton in other major	3 of other major (= splinter)

The theory behind BR is the law of total tricks, which says that an 8 card suit should make at least 2 and a 9 card suit should make at least 3.

Some partnerships reverse the 3C and 3D bids so the strong bid (now 3C) gives more room to explore higher contracts. Opener, with a minimum, can sign off in 3 of the major. Opener's bid of any other suit over partner's BR is a slam try, generally showing a control in that suit, without a control in any intervening suit. Responder can then bid controls or go to 4 of the major.

Some partnerships play Modified Bergen (MB), using the following responses:

With ...	Bid ...
4-6 HCP, 3 card support	1NT forcing, then bid 2 of major over opener's response
6-9 HCP, 3 card support	2 of major
10-11 HCP, 3 card support	3C
6-9 HCP, 4 card support	3D
10-11 HCP, 4 card support	3 of major
Singleton in other major	3 of other major (= splinter)

MB provides more possible descriptions, but loses the weak raise with 0-5 and 4+ card support, leaving responder to decide whether to pass, make a simple raise, or preemptively jump to 4 of the major.

Most partnerships play that BR or MB is off with interference by opponents, although some leave it on over a double (but no other bid by opponent).

In any case, BR or MB must be alerted.

On defense, a double of 3C or 3D is generally lead directing. A cue bid of opener's major shows the other major and a minor. After an initial pass, a subsequent double is for takeout.

WISDOM OF PHYLLIS DILLER

As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.

Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance?

Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.

The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public.

Best way to get rid of kitchen odors: Eat out.

A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once.

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.

Most children threaten at times to run away from home. This is the only thing that keeps some parents going.

Any time three New Yorkers get into a cab without an argument, a bank has just been robbed.

We spend the first 12 months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next 12 years telling them to sit down and shut up.

Burt Reynolds once asked me out. I was in his room.

What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.

The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.

His finest hour lasted a minute and a half.

Old age is when the liver spots show through your gloves.

My photographs don't do me justice - they look just like me.

Tranquilizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle – “keep away from children”.

I asked the waiter, “Is this milk fresh?” He said, “Lady, three hours ago it was grass.”

The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing.

You know you're old if they have discontinued your blood type.

1NT RESPONSE FORCING TO 1 OF A MAJOR

Forcing 1NT over 1 of major is used when playing 5 card major openings and is integral to a number of systems, such as 2/1, Kaplan Scheinwold, and Roth-Stone, to name a few. It is a catchall bid for hands where responder cannot otherwise make a bid at the 1-level and does not have enough to go to the 2-level.

Opener responds as follows:

2c or 2D	3+ card suit (with both, bid clubs)
2 of major	6+ card suit, regular opener (or when hearts is your major and you have 4-5-2-2 distribution – 2S would be a reverse and (1) your hand is not strong enough and (2) you don't otherwise want to bid a 2 card suit)
2 of other major	if your suit was spades, it guarantees 4 H; if your suit was hearts, it guarantees 4S and a hand strong enough to reverse (say 18+)
3 of major	strong hand, generally 6+ cards, but might do it with 5 cards - invites game or slam
3 of either minor or 3H when spades = suit	4+ cards in that suit and 17+ points
4C, 4D, 4H when spades = suit, 3S when hearts = suit	splinter

After opener's response of 2 of a minor or 2H when spades is his suit, responder can pass, bid an intervening suit (generally considered a drop-dead bid), or return to 2 of the major. Responder may bid 2 of the major with 2 card support, especially if they lack support in the suit responded by opener.

Some pairs play 1NT as semi-forcing, permitting opener to pass with a 4-5-2-2 hand (if hearts is my 5 card suit and responder failed to bid spades, we may be better off in 1NT). Some partnerships also allow opener to pass 1NT with 5-3-3-2 distribution and a minimum hand. The main problem with semi-forcing, which is eliminated by playing Bergen Raises (see above), is that responder generally shows a limit raise with 3 card support by first bidding 1NT and then rebidding 3 of opener's major. Thus, you could be stranded in 1NT, perhaps going down, when you have game in the major.

1NT forcing or semi-forcing must be announced.

TABLE ARRANGEMENT

Georges, Patrick, Charles, Samuel, and Bruno are five Frenchmen. Georges knows English and Chinese. Patrick knows Chinese and Japanese. Charles knows Japanese and German. Samuel knows German and English. Bruno knows them all: English, Chinese, Japanese and German.

In how many ways can they sit in a row, such that any two neighboring persons have no problems in communication?

(See answer below)

CATHOLIC JOKE

"Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl."

The priest asks, "Is that you, little Joey Pagano?"

"Yes, Father, it is."

"And who was the girl you were with?"

"I can't tell you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation."

"Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now.

Was it Tina Minetti?"

"I cannot say."

"Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?"

"I'll never tell."

"Was it Nina Capelli?"

"I'm sorry, but I cannot name her."

"Was it Cathy Piriano?"

"My lips are sealed."

"Was it Rosa DiAngelo, then?"

"Please, Father! I cannot tell you."

The priest sighs in frustration. "You're very tight lipped, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself."

Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, "What'd you get?"

"Four months vacation and five good leads..."

WORDS

There are only two words in the English language that have three consecutive double letters, although they are quite similar ("bookkeeping" and "bookkeeper")

"Uncopyrightable" is the longest English word with no repeated letters.

ANSWER TO TABLE ARRANGEMENT

They are all Frenchmen, and can all speak French. Therefore, any order is OK. For the mathematically inclined, there are $5!$ (factorial) possibilities = $5*4*3*2*1 = 120$.