



# JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Monday</u><br><u>BBO</u> | <u>Tuesday</u>  | <u>Wednesday</u><br><u>F2F</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u><br><u>BBO</u> | <u>Saturday</u> | All games start 1:30 F2F games at Lessie Price |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|
|               |                             |   |                                |                 |                             | 1               |  |
| 2             | 3<br>Open Pairs             | 4   | 5<br>Club Champ                | 6               | 7<br>Junior Fund            | 8               |  |
| 9             | 10<br>Open Pairs.           | 11  | 12<br>Club Champ               | 13<br>LUNCH     | 14<br>Open Pairs            | 15              |  |
| 16            | 17<br>Silver Lining         | 18  | 19<br>Junior Fund              | 20              | 21<br>Silver Lining         | 22              |  |
| 23            | 24<br>Open Pairs            | 25  | 26<br>Junior Fund              | 27              | 28<br>Open Pairs            | 29              |  |
| 30            | 31<br>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. |                                |                 |                             |                 |  |



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Our By-Laws require an Annual Membership Meeting in January of each year. It will be held on Friday, January 21, 2022 via a Zoom Virtual Meeting. To be invited to the meeting you need to contact Mike McComb to be added to the invite list. Annual reports given will be included in a "State of the Club" article in the February newsletter.

*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.*

The annual holiday party was a big success despite COVID. Someone left a very dark, FADED GLORY jacket in the coat closet at Newberry Hall. Call Linda Knox at 514-2243 if it belongs to you.

**Miles Hall will be 90 on January 28**



Happy Birthday Miles



Members of the Bridge Club meet for lunch at 1:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:jayjacobs44@gmail.com)**

## 2022 Online ACBL Game News

- Starting 3 January, online club games will award the same number of black masterpoints as face-to-face club games. ACBL has eliminated the 125% online game bonus.
- 6-9 January. All online games will be Junior Fund games and award 200% normal club game BLACK masterpoints.
- 17-23 January. **Silver Linings Week**. All online games will award 200% normal club game masterpoints. All masterpoints will be SILVER!
- 12-13 February. Valentine Weekend. All online games will award 200% normal club game BLACK masterpoints.
- 21-27 February. Education Foundation Week. All online games will award 200% normal club game BLACK masterpoints.

## Important Election Information

The bylaws proposed by the Board were approved unanimously by all who took the time to recently 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. With the recent appointment of Marc Carney to fill out Phoebe Walters' unexpired term, we presently have six members. The terms of Lauren Alexander and Mike McComb expire this year. Both have agreed to serve new terms.

The bylaws also call for elections in January. We as a Board anticipate there will not be many people willing to run for election. In the past we have named a nominating Committee, who have arm-twisted our friends and usually come up with just enough people to fill the open slots. Occasionally we actually have a choice, and thus there are winners and losers. Since we have enough people currently willing to serve on the Club Board, we can save a whole lot of effort (and paper!) by not holding a formal election.

Therefore, although we will accept nominations, the Board respectfully suggests the Club elect Lauren and Mike without going through a formal election process.

The bylaws call for the Board to name a Club Manager and Treasurer from among its members after their election to the Board. Although we are totally open to your input, we have discussed the roles we each are willing to serve in for 2022, and sincerely request your support of our decisions moving forward.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

As of the third quarter, the Club had improved its bank balances compared to year end. As a result, I took an informal survey of the E-W pairs coming to our table a couple months back. The overwhelming response was that we should increase our gifts to charity to use some of this money. I reported this to the Board in November, and in our December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, we decided to spend as charitable donations an amount roughly equivalent to what we were spending on ourselves for the Holiday Party. After some discussion, the Board agreed on four charities to support this year, in addition to the \$1000 contribution we made to the Alzheimer's organization back in June. The amount we spent on the Holiday Party was about \$2600, thus our four designated charities will each get about \$650.

Here are the four we have chosen for 2021. This is not to say we will support these organizations every year, though we might choose to do so.

St. Vincent de Paul provides support for the less fortunate in our community, both seniors and families. Though this organization is affiliated with St. Mary's Catholic Church, it serves people of all faiths and is recognized as an asset to the Aiken community at large.


The Animal Advocate is a no-kill animal shelter in Barnwell. The Board recognizes that many of our members have animals, and we felt it appropriate to make a donation to recognize that interest.

Aiken Elementary Backpack Program is run by the teachers and staff at Aiken Elementary and provides food for children who they feel are in danger of being hungry when school is not in session. The school attendance area includes low-income areas around the Croft House and the Price Center. The Board felt this was a good use of our funds from a geographical perspective, even though it is not focused on seniors.

Aiken Senior Life Services provides transportation for those seniors in our community who do not have cars, as well as the Meals on Wheels Program for seniors (1800 hot nutritious meals provided each week). I was shocked to learn their fleet of vehicles (Best Friend Express, Pony Express, and Dial-A-Ride) has 31 vehicles and has travelled nearly 1.8 million miles in the past 11 months. (We totally lose sight of how many people in Aiken lack personal transportation, and thus rely on these services to stay mobile, run errands, and gracefully age in place.) The organization has grown so much they are relocating to their new building on East Pine Log Road. (the old Bits, Bridles, & Britches building).

Although you may not totally agree with our choices, we hope that the above provides some understanding for why we opted to support these causes. If you have organizations, you would like us to consider next year, please contact a Board member.

## How can I send an email to a board member??

To email any Board Member go to the ABC Website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/aiken/> and click on Board Members Tab on the menu on the left side of the website. Click on the envelope  next to the board member's name and you will be able to send that person a secure email.

## HELP SUIT GAME TRIES

Once a major is established as trump, but without a game force, opener's bid of another suit is generally a game try and is forcing to at least 3 of our major. Thus, if I open 1S and partner raises to 2S, a bid of any other suit at the 3 level asks partner to bid game if they have any of the following: (1) help in that suit, generally an ace or king, (2) shortness in that suit (since I bid a 3 or 4 card suit with likely losers) or elsewhere, (3) extra trump length, and/or (4) a maximum raise to 2S. Meanwhile, if I am not interested in game, I simply pass 2S.

This approach avoids auctions such as 1H-2H-3H-??? Indeed, such auctions can be reserved for times when help is actually needed in the trump suit. Suppose I have 15+ points, but lack (most of) the top honors in trump. I do not need help outside of trump. In that case, bidding 3 of my major instead of an outside suit can ask specifically for the quality of trump support. With (1) 2 of the top 3 honors or (2) 1 honor and 4+ card support, responder goes to 4. Otherwise, responder passes 3 of the major.

## HOW I GOT MY FIRST DISHWASHER

My mother came for dinner at our house. After dinner, we put our plates on the floor for the dogs to lick. My mother, not a dog-person and somewhat of a germophobe, was aghast, although we assured her that we wash them afterwards. A little later we went for an after dinner walk. Since we lived in the country, the dogs went wherever they wanted. Some horses had recently been by and the dogs returned with what could only be described as a s\*\*t-eating grin. The next day a dishwasher was delivered to our house.

## UPSIDE DOWN SPOTTED STRIPED BOX

Follow these steps and see if you can figure this out.

- 1) Get a brown, cardboard box.
- 2) Get purple, orange, and turquoise paints.
- 3) Paint the box orange.
- 4) Paint on purple spots.
- 5) Paint on turquoise stripes.
- 7) Turn it upside down.
- 8) Lie on your side.

What is missing from this sequence? (answer below)

## GAMBLING 3NT

Gambling 3NT is an opening bid featuring a long running minor (such as 7 to the AKQ). You may lack outside values, although an outside stopper is not forbidden. If you have a 6 card suit, you should have some outside values. Do not make this bid with a major – instead open 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the major, depending on your hand.

If partner has nothing, they will generally bid 4C and you pass or correct to 4D. Similarly, if the opponents double and partner wants to run, partner bids 4C and you pass or correct. If partner passes the double, it implies stoppers in the majors. If partner redoubles, the opponents do not play the contract undoubled.

Responses to a gambling 3NT are as follows:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 4C     | Weakness, desire to play in opener's suit   |
| 4D     | Generally used artificially as a singleton inquiry – opener then bids a major suit singleton, 4NT without a singleton, and rebids his minor with a singleton in the other minor |
| 4H, 4S | Natural, with at least a self-sufficient 6 card suit  |
| 4NT    | Conventional ask for suit length – 5C = 7 cards, 5D = 8 cards, etc.   |
| 5C     | Desire to play in 5 of opener's suit  |
| 5D     | Natural – implies responder has a club honor so opener's suit must be diamonds  |
| 6C     | Desire to play in minor-suit slam   |

3NT and subsequent responses must be alerted.

A common defense against the gambling 3NT is to bid a 5 or 6 card major at the 4 level. Alternatively, you could double, asking for a major, or bid your stronger minor as a takeout for the majors. With the latter treatment, double can be for penalties.

When 3NT is the final contract, the best defense is often for the opening leader to cash a winner to get a look at dummy and obtain info from his/her partner as to which suit to lead next.

## ODD NUMBERS

Ms. Arroyo asked the class to see if they could find the sum of the first 50 odd numbers. As everyone settled down to their addition, Terry ran to her and said, "The sum is 2,500." Ms. Arroyo thought, "Lucky guess," and gave him the task of finding the sum of the first 75 odd numbers. Within seconds, Terry was back with the correct answer of 5,625.

How did Terry find the sums so quickly? (answer below)

## NAMYATS

NAMYATS is a convention popular with expert players. It allows you to differentiate between weak and strong four level openers in a major. (And yes, it is Stayman spelled backwards.) With a weaker hand or one with a solid major and nothing else, you open four of your major. With a stronger hand, you open 4C when your suit is hearts and 4D when your suit is spades. Then, partner can assess slam possibilities. If partner is interested in slam, they start a cue bidding sequence. If not, partner simply accepts the transfer to the major.

Some people play that you always open 4C or 4D without differentiating between weak and strong hands, although this is a less popular treatment. In that case, partner still indicates slam interest by starting a cue bidding sequence. Otherwise, partner simply accepts the transfer. While this approach loses the ability to differentiate between weak and strong hands, it has the advantage of making the unknown hand the declarer.

The bids must be alerted.

What you lose is the ability to open 4 of a minor, which does not occur often.

As a defense against NAMYATS, most people play a double as a takeout of opener's major, while delayed doubles are for penalty.

## BOB'S PARTY

Bob was having a big party. He decided on a technique to get lots of people to come. He invited his five closest friends and said that they could each invite 4 people.

Each of those could invite 3.

Each of those could invite 2.

Each of those could invite 1.

Overall, how many people did Bob invite to his party? (answer below)

## DEFINITIONS

Glossolalia - Unintelligible utterances occurring during religious excitation, schizophrenia, etc. (also known as speaking in tongues)

Pogonophobia – fear of beards

Philocynic – dog-lover

Arachibutiphobia – fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth

## BAD JOKES

A buzzard tried to board a plane with two dead pigeons. The flight attendant said; “Sorry, sir, only one carrion permitted.”

Maestro: “Can you play the Messiah?”

Orchestra: “We can Handel it.”

Q. How do you know the toothbrush as invented in Kentucky?

A: Anywhere else they would have called it a “teeth-brush”.

I was in a bar in West Virginia and met a really friendly guy. He said he’d like to introduce me to his wife and his sister. I looked, but there was only one person.

*Q: Why were medieval times called “The Dark Ages”?*

*A: Because there were so many knights. (“An age is called dark, not because the light fails to shine, but because people refuse to see it.” – James Michener)*

*What does a cockney say to a three-headed, one-armed, one-legged hitchhiker? “ello;, ’ello; ‘ello; looks like you could use a hand – hop in.”*

A cooking school offered a degree in baking. The top students graduated with flying crullers.

## ANSWER TO UPSIDE DOWN SPOTTED STRIPED BOX

There is no Step 6.

## ANSWER TO ODD NUMBERS

The following pattern holds: The sum is equal to  $n \times n$  (=  $n$  squared), when  $n$  is the number of consecutive odd numbers, starting with 1. For example, the sum of the first 3 odd numbers =  $3 \times 3$ , or 9; the sum of the first 4 odd numbers =  $4 \times 4$ , or 16; the sum of the first 5 odd numbers =  $5 \times 5$ , or 25; and so on. So, 50 squared = 2,500 and 75 squared = 5,625.

## ANSWER TO BOB’S PARTY

Bob invited 5 people.