



# MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Swiss Team Game

Fourth Monday, March 27

Preregistration is Required

### ABC 2023 Board Members

Lauren Alexander, Club Manager

Sherry Buck    Marc Carney

Doug Leader    Phillip Mixson

Phoebe Walters

The monthly team game continues to be very popular with our members. In both January and February we had 12 tables participating.

A special thank you to Lynn Mullins for bringing fresh veggies and dip and cheese and crackers both months.

Thanks to all for supporting the Aiken Bridge Club

### ATTENTION:

**PSYCH Bids** are a gross misrepresentation of one's hand and are not allowed at the Aiken Bridge Club. If you use a psych bid and the Director is called, you will be penalized. **An average + will go to your opponents, giving them a 60% on that hand.**

Please play fair and remember, we are a local Club and want a friendly game for everyone. **Thank You!**

Beginning March 1, the Aiken Bridge Club will no longer support the guaranteed partnership program.

Joanne Sheehan has agreed to coordinate the partnership program. Please remember that Joanne is a volunteer to help you find a partner. You can email Joanne from the ABC website or you can look up her phone number in our on-line directory.

If you contact her and your circumstances change, please update her immediately.



## RANK CHANGES

Beverly Cameron	Sectional Master
Stella Donelan	NABC Master
Christine Gasperini	Gold Life Master
Cathie Lindler	Silver Life Master
Jennifer Matheson	Club Master
Jeanette Parish	Club Master
Bill Parks	Life Master
Phoebe Walters	Bronze Life Master
George Ward	ADV NABC Master



Congratulations to All !!

**REMEMBER:** If you get an email from Aiken Bridge Club, please read it. With director shortage, flu season and covid, a game might have to be cancelled. Email is the only way we can get the word out if we must cancel at the last minute.

## Aiken Bridge Club's Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make your afternoon of bridge an enjoyable experience we have enacted this policy of zero tolerance for unacceptable social behavior.

**Behavior by any member that causes a disturbance or makes other members uncomfortable will not be tolerated.**

The ultimate purpose of the Zero Tolerance policy is to create a pleasant atmosphere in which to play duplicate bridge. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all.

Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
- Greeting others in a friendly manner.
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)

If a person or a pair at your table behaves in a manner that is disturbing, you may call the director to come to the table and correct the situation. In "the heat of the moment" the person causing the problem may not realize that the behavior is disturbing to others, but the director will explain the policy to the offender. It is hoped that this reminder will correct the situation, but if the offender continues with disruptive behavior, it will be brought to the attention of the board for possible corrective action.

Most of our members understand how to conduct ourselves at the bridge table, but following are a few examples of unacceptable behavior. These are examples, but not a complete list of all possible unacceptable behavior:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation
- Negative comments about the bidding or play of the hand
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analysis of each hand
- Arguing with a director's ruling\*

*\*When the director is called to make a ruling on a bridge problem you must accept that ruling without question or discussion. You may disagree with that ruling and it is possible that it could be wrong but given our club time constraints it is necessary that you withhold your discussion with the director until the end of the day.*

**Remember: Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A and Law 91A and gives the director authority to assess disciplinary penalties. If the offense goes beyond "on the spot resolution", then the Director can document the incident and turn it over to the ABC Board of Directors for evaluation.**

This quiz has been around since we were kids.

## Remember the answers?

1. If a plane crashed on the border of the USA and Canada, where should the survivors be buried?
2. How many species of each animal did Moses take aboard the ark?
3. How many months have 28 days?
4. How far can a bear walk into the woods?
5. What is the value of coin dated 24 B.C.?
6. How many grooves does a 45rpm phonograph record have?
7. A camper leaves her camp, hikes 1 mile south, then 1 mile east where she sees a bear. Then she hikes 1 mile north to arrive at her camp. What color is the bear?
8. If a rooster lays an egg on the peak of a roof , will the egg roll to the left side or to the right side?
9. If a south bound electric train is traveling at a rate of 66 miles per hour and the wind is blowing to the north at 35 miles per hour, which way will the smoke blow?
10. On which side of a chicken are the most feathers?

## ANSWERS:

1. You don't bury survivors. Makes them quite uptight!
2. Moses didn't have an Ark, Noah did.
3. All twelve of them.
4. Halfway, then he is walking out of the woods.
5. Nothing, a coin could not be dated BC.
6. One (spiraling) on each side.
7. The camp must be at the north pole, therefore the bear is white.
8. Roosters don't lay eggs, chickens do.
9. Electric trains don't blow smoke.
10. The outside.

The Quiz was submitted by Miles Hall

## WEAK NO-TRUMP

All no-trump bids have a preemptive effect, since they force the opponents to bid at the next level. The weak no-trump pushes this even further because the opponents don't necessarily know where the balance of power lies or whether/where they may have a fit. It often provides a good landing place to play and can be both a good offensive and defensive weapon. In competitive auctions, the side striking first generally has a competitive advantage.

Players use many different ranges for weak NT: 10-13, 11-14, 12-14/15, 13-15/16, 14-16/17, etc. In addition, many pairs allow different ranges based on vulnerability, tending to use a higher or (gasp) normal range when vulnerable and a lower range when not vulnerable. This article assumes a range of 11-14, regardless of vulnerability. Individual partnerships should make appropriate adaptations for different ranges. 1NT openers announce their range if other than standard.

In any position, an opening bid of a weak 1NT guarantees no voids, no singletons, and no 5+ card major. You can do it with 6-3-3-2 distribution when the 6 card suit is a potentially runable minor (you would open 1 or 2 in a major), but it should be announced ("could be 6-3-3-2").

**Opening 1 of a suit and subsequently rebidding 1NT shows a standard 1NT opener and is announced**, including after opening 1H when partner responds 1S. You could, by partnership agreement, decide that 1H-1S-1NT is not a strong NT with specifically 5 hearts. Otherwise, be prepared to bid another suit at the 2 level. **If you do not open 1NT or rebid 1NT, follow your normal bidding system.**

A direct or balancing overcall of 1NT has the same requirements, except bid a 5 or 6 card suit rather than 1NT. Systems are on after a 1NT overcall. Do not overcall 1NT when an opponent opens, partner passes, and opponent's partner bids, since you then know the opponents probably have at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  the points and you could get doubled for big numbers. It is generally higher risk to overcall 1NT when opponents open the bidding because you do not know how the remaining points are divided. If partner has them, you are OK, but if the other opponent has them, you are in big trouble. Even if they split reasonably equally, your side may have less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the points and no source of tricks.

If an opponent doubles, redouble by either partner is SOS – bid 4 card suits up the line. Thus, a pass by responder indicates willingness to play 1NT doubled (7+ HCP) and should be alerted. This may lead to a doubling sequence if the opponents try to run for

cover. Most pairs play systems on after a double. Clearly if responder has a long suit, they should bid it or transfer into it, based on partnership agreement.

Over opponents' interference, responder's double of any suit is for penalty, even if it is an artificial bid, since it places their suit and/or general strength. Some partnerships also play stolen bids when it does not interfere with a penalty double, although this is rare and often confusing.

### Responder's bids after a weak NT are as follows:

2C	Stayman
2D	Transfer to hearts
2H	Transfer to spades
2S	Transfer to 3C – responder then passes or corrects to 3D – this is a drop-dead bid If responder has a strong hand with a 6 card minor (perhaps a good 5 card suit with an unbalanced hand), they may bid 4 of their minor or 3NT – generally, with a strong otherwise balanced hand responder would just bid 3NT instead of going through the transfer sequence
2NT	Game invitation (11-12 HCP) – does NOT deny a 4 card major If 1NT opener / overcaller accepts invitation, they bid 3NT or 4 card majors up the line – thus, a bid of 3H does not deny 4 spades, while a bid of 3S denies 4 hearts - Responder then bids 4 of the major with a fit, 3S if NT bidder bid hearts and responder has 4S, or bids 3NT if there is no 4 card major fit Consequently, bidding Stayman and then 2NT over opener's response = less than 11 HCP
3C, 3D, 3H. 3S	6 card suit headed by 2 of top 3 honors – does not require any outside values (so if you have a stronger hand, take a different action) – NT bidder can then pass, or bid 3N with the missing honor, or bid 4 or responder's suit with support and no interest in NT, knowing they face an unbalanced hand – you would be surprised how many games you reach 3NT or 5 of a minor with this bid while the field languishes in a part score or lets the opponents play
3NT	To play (13-17 HCP) – no 4 card major, or no interest in playing in it
4C	Gerber
4D	Transfer to 4H (enough for game opposite a worthless doubleton)
4H	Transfer to 4S (enough for game opposite a worthless doubleton)
4S	To play, perhaps with a doubleton K needing protection on opening lead (enough for game opposite a worthless doubleton)
4NT	Slam invitation in NT (18-19 HCP) – no 4 card major or 6 card minor, or no interest in playing in them
5NT	Slam invitation in NT (23+ HCP) – opener bids 6NT with min and 7NT with max 1NT – no 4 card major or 6 card minor, or no interest in play in them
6NT	To play (20-22 HCP) – no 4 card major or 6 card minor, or no interest in playing in them

Probably the best defense against weak NT is natural bids or DON'T, although Cappelletti or similar bids are also used. Discuss with your partner what you are playing against opponents who play weak NT, whether or not you play it.

Remember, this is a system – adopting isolated parts without integrating into your regular system can cause problems.

Bear in mind, also, using weak NT will occasionally lead to big losses, especially when vulnerable. On the other hand, you play more hands because of the preemptive value of 1NT (tending to give you more positive scores or low negative scores when the opponents have something better). Or, you may defend when the opponents are not at their optimum level and/or strain. You do, however, inform the opponents where most of the outstanding points reside.

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## Change to the Aiken Bridge Club's Newsletter

The Aiken Bridge Club's Calendar is on the Aiken Bridge Club Website. To view the calendar: bookmark our website to your favorites:

**Aiken Bridge Club Website** When on the website you will see a menu (purple) on the left side. Click on the current month calendar. The calendar is updated as changes are made. You will have the most up-to-date calendar using the website calendar. If you need help, please contact Sherry Buck .