



NOVEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER



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

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

HAPPENINGS

Elections:

We have elections scheduled for January for Club Manager and Board Members. If you would like to be a candidate or nominate someone, see a Board Member or one of the Directors.

Playing Directors:

We experimented with a playing director on BBO games and it basically worked out OK. There were a few kinks but it does allow us to have a playing director, which may mean more tables in play. The ACBL does not encourage, nor does it forbid, playing directors, and many other clubs use them.

Meeting with friends: Members of the Bridge Club meet for lunch at 1 PM on the second Thursday of each month at O'Charlie's restaurant. Contact Dorothy Johnson for details.

Moved on but still want to play with us:

One of the many benefits of BBO is that it allows members who have moved out of Aiken to still play with our Club. Miles Hall recently relocated to Panama City, FL and is getting settled in, but would like to play starting soon. If you would be willing to partner with him, please email him at: mamhall@bellsouth.net Or Phone: 850 215-0142

Madhu Suchak moved to the Charlotte NC area earlier this year. He too would like to partner with his old friends.

Email him at: madhusuchak@yahoo.com

If you need an on-line partner, please contact these gentlemen.

HOLIDAY DINNER

After taking a break in 2020, we are again providing an opportunity for members and their guests to socialize during the holidays! Alan Brooks has arranged a buffet dinner at Newberry Hall on Tuesday December 21st. There will be a choice of beef sirloin or chicken along with a salad, beverage and choice of two desserts. A cash bar will also be available. The Club will cover the cost of the member's meal, and each member can bring one spouse/guest for a \$20 charge. We need reservations in advance - they can be called into Linda Knox at 803-514-2243 or Lauren Alexander 803-606-8496. We also need to have the payment of \$20 (if applicable) by Nov. 19th. You can pay Linda at the F2F games or send your check to Linda at 118 Sea Grass Lane Aiken 29803 or Alan at 119 Quaker Ride Rd. Aiken 29803.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Club recently restarted the Guaranteed Partner Program for Wednesday F2F games, and a lot of people are taking advantage of it. 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 people volunteering. The downside is that if an odd number of people show up, the volunteer does not get to play. Therefore we really suggest you contact our Partnership Chair when you are looking for a partner.

Joanne Sheehan has graciously volunteered to be our partnership Chairperson. She would be happy to help you find a partner. However, few people have been calling or emailing for help and she has only set up one partnership recently. In the past the policy has been to send an email blast when a partner was needed. This became unwieldy in Joanne's opinion. To make things simple, members could just contact her about needing a partner and she will let them know if someone is available. If you are willing to accept e-mails regarding partnership opportunities, let Joanne know and she can e-mail you when someone is looking for a partner. This could be used for either F2F or BBO games. Cell phone or text number: 985-778-6570 Email: joannechic@yahoo.com

In addition, for on-line games, BBO provides a partnership desk. The instructions seem clear. You simply click on the "Partnership Desk" icon and enter your name. Another member can then select you as a partner for that game. If you have trouble using this option, please let Sherry Buck know, and she will try to guide you through it.

WEBSITE

As the Board reviewed the state of the Club after Ron's death, we realized the website needed improvement. A great amount of appreciation is due to Sherry Buck, who researched options and has created a new website for us using bridgewebs technology. Sherry is working with Google to direct inquiries to this site, but you can always reach it by pasting this URL into your browser:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=aiken&pid=display_home

Take a look and see what a fantastic job Sherry has done thus far. If you don't see something you think should be added, contact Sherry or any Board member. Our intent is to make the website THE PLACE for all Aiken Bridge Club information. You can find calendars, results, newsletters, and more. Note - the website is still under improvement, so not everything may be working at this time. Bear with us !

BYLAW REVISIONS

Prior to his passing, Ron was working with Jay Jacobs and Steve Banwarth on updating our bylaws to better reflect the way the Club is operating in these days of electronic communications. The Board is reviewing the proposal and hopes to have it ready for membership approval in the next few months.

JAY IN WISE-GUY MODE

Colleague: "Do you know what time it is?"

Jay: "Yes"

The doctor told me to take one pill every four hours. I told him that was impossible.

Colleague: "Can I ask you a question?"

Jay: "You just did."

Colleague: "Can I ask you another question?"

Jay: "You just did."

Colleague: "Can I ask you two questions?"

Jay: "What's the other one?"

Jay: "We have black horses and white horses, but the black horses eat more."

Colleague: "That's interesting. Do you know why?"

Jay: "Maybe because there are more of them."

STAYMAN AND TRANSFERS

When partner opens 1NT (or 2NT), most of us play 2C (or 3C) (Stayman) asking for a 4 card major. If we have a 5 card major, we transfer into it by bidding the suit immediately below the suit we want partner to bid (thus, 2D asks partner to bid 2H, 2H asks partner to bid 2S – this would apply at the 3 level over a 2NT opener, and at the 4 level over either a 1NT or 2NT opener). This is all pretty straight-forward. But, there are a number of nuances we can add that take nothing away from these basics.

Everyone should play “garbage Stayman”. That occurs when you have 4-4-4-1 distribution where the singleton is a club AND you have a weak hand. Since you will add little to partner’s NT, it is probably better to play in a suit. Over partner’s 1NT, bid 2C (Stayman) and pass partner’s response. If partner does not have a 4 card major, they are odds on to have at least 3 cards in diamonds (yes there will be times when partner has 5 clubs, 2, diamonds, and 3 of each major). At least partner will have club ruffing values in your hand. Some would also do this with 5 diamonds and 4-3 in the majors or 4-4 in the majors, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs.

If you are 5-4 in the majors, rather than risking a transfer (and playing in a 5-2 fit when you have a 4-4 fit in the other major), bid Stayman. If partner responds one of your majors, you can pass or raise, depending on your hand. Suppose, instead, partner responds 2D, indicating no 4 card major. If you have a minimum hand, simply bid your 5 card major. The worse that can happen is you play 2 of your major in a 5-2 fit. If you have a game going hand, bid 3 of your major. That tells partner you are 5-4 with invitational values, and lets partner pass or choose what they consider the best game (3NT or 4 of your major). The only risk here is when you have game forcing hand since partner might pass 3 of your major. Sooo, you need to discuss ahead of time whether 3 of the major is game forcing. If it is not, you can take your chances and bid 3 of the major or 3NT. If it is game forcing, no problem. Most play it is game forcing. Some people play “Smolen” where you reverse the bids at the 3 level. Then after 1NT-2C-2D, 3 hearts means 4 hearts and 5 spades and 3S means 5 hearts and 4 spades. This enables the 1NT hand to be the concealed hand if they opt to play in a 5-3 fit at four of a major.

Suppose, instead, you are 5-5 in the majors. There are a number of ways to handle this. This is what I prefer. If you have a minimum hand, you transfer into hearts and then bid spades. This allows you to play at the two level if partner is OK with spades. If you have an invitational or better hand, transfer into spades and then bid hearts. Partner can then pass, bid 3S, 3NT, or 4 of either major.

Suppose you have a 4 or 5 card major with a 4 or 5 card minor. You can use Stayman, or transfer if the major is 5 cards, and then bid the minor. Clearly you would need enough points for a second bid. Discuss with your partner whether your bid of the minor is forcing or not.

Transfers into minors are often problematic. If you have a 6 card minor and little else, you probably want to play it there. But, generally, with a bad hand and only a 5 card minor, partner may do better at 1NT than 3 of the minor. There are basically two different ways to transfer into a minor. The simpler, more common way. Is to bid 2S over partner's 1NT. Partner then bids 3 clubs and you pass or correct. Another way is 4-way transfers. A bid of 2S is a transfer to 3C and a bid of 2NT is a transfer to 3D. This provides a little more flexibility but loses the ability to make a direct raise to 2NT. If you want to make a raise to 2NT, you must use Stayman and then rebid 2NT over partner's response. Then, you partner must alert 2C as not necessarily having a 4 card major. The advantage of this method is you can bid again after partner accepts your transfer, showing a good hand. In fact, some people play that 2S over 1NT is minor suit Stayman, asking the 1NT bidder to better define their hand. Then, 2NT means the opener has no real preference for either minor and a minimum hand. A bid of 3C or 3D is an obvious preference. Responder may act further if they are interested in slam or game in a minor or NT. You need to discuss with your partner whether 2S over 1NT is a transfer (which means you will probably play in 3 of a minor) or minor-suit Stayman (which indicates slam interest if partner has the right hand).

Puppet Stayman is used over 1NT or 2NT to determine if opener has a 5 card major. If you bid Stayman and partner responds 2H and you have 4 spades, rather than bid 2NT, bid 2S (or 3S as a game force). Partner may have bid both majors, or be happy to play in a 4-3 spade fit (if they have a worthless doubleton elsewhere).

Since Puppet Stayman and regular Stayman are mutually exclusive, many people play Puppet Stayman only over 2NT openers (vs. over 1NT), where opener is more likely to have a 5 card major. Over 3C, if opener has a 5 card major, they bid it. If opener has one or both 4 card majors, they bid 3D. Now, responder bids the major they do NOT have 4 cards in. Thus, if the bidding goes 2NT-3C-3D, responder bids 3H if they have 4 spades and 3S if they have 4 hearts. Opener can then go to 4 of the major, if there is a 4-4 fit, or bid 3NT. If responder has both majors, they bid 4D over 3D and, again, opener sets the final contract, knowing that responder has 4 cards in both majors. If responder has no 4 card major, they bid 3NT over 3D.

Transfer escapes over doubles of 1NT is a 4 suit escape method when the opponents double partner's 1NT opener. A redouble is a transfer to clubs, while 2C transfer to 2D, 2D transfers to 2H, and 2H transfers to 2S. If responder redoubles and then bids 2D over partner's forced 2C, he is asking the 1NT opener to bid his better major.

Over interference, people play many different systems. If the overcall is natural, usually a double is for penalties and any suit bid is natural. Otherwise, if the opponent bids 2C, then 2D = Stayman. Some play that a double of 2C = Stayman and 2D and 2H = transfers to the next higher suit. Make sure you discuss this with your partner so you are on the same wavelength. Over 2C, the bid of a suit is generally assumed to be natural if you are not playing transfers.

What about when the overcall is other than 2C. Again, there is a variety. When the overcall shows a two-suited hand (such as 2H = hearts and a minor, 2S = spades and a minor, or 2H= hearts and spades), a double is generally for penalties in the suit bid. The 1NT opener then assesses their hand to see whether they have a double if the opponents run to the other suit. However, if the overcall is 2D, indicating hearts and spades, generally a double indicates diamonds.

MORE JAY IN WISE-GUY MODE

Relative asking Jay the CPA to prepare their tax return for free: "Are you competent to do it?"

Jay: "Why don't you hire somebody else?"

Smarmy car salesperson: "How much do you want to pay for this car?"

Jay: "One dollar."

Smarmy car salesperson: "Seriously, how much do you really want to pay for this car?"

Jay: "I really want to pay one dollar."

Smarmy car salesperson finally seeing the light: "How much are you willing to pay for this car?"

Jay: "I'll have to think about that."

Doctor to Jay after minor surgery: "I'll write you a prescription for Oxycodone for pain."

Jay: "I don't have any pain – if I do, I'll take a Tylenol."

Doctor: "I'll give it to you just in case."

Jay: "The only reason I would fill the prescription is so I can sell the pills on the street corner."

Doctor: "I'll take 40%."

SUPPORT DOUBLES

Support doubles enable opener to tell responder whether they have 3 or 4 card support to responder's major. Suppose opener bids 1 of a minor and responder bids one of a major, and then an opponent bids an intervening suit – for example: 1C (opener) -P (opponent) -1H (responder) -1S or 2D (opponent). A direct raise to 2H by opener indicates 4 card heart support and a double by opener indicates 3 card heart support. If the bidding goes: 1C-1H (by opponent)-1S (by responder)-2H by opponent, a double of two hearts shows 3 card support whereas a bid of two spades shows 4 card support. It's as simple as that.

Support doubles do not indicate opener's overall strength, but, at least, responder knows whether opener has 3 or 4 card support. If the bidding goes 1C-P-1H-double, then redouble would be the equivalent of a support double, showing 3 card support. Likewise, a support double applies when the overcaller bids 1NT – for example, 1D (opener) –P (opponent) -1S (responder) -1NT (opponent). Some people prefer to play a double in this situation as penalty, but most play it as a support double. Discuss that with your partner.

Support doubles do not apply when the overcaller raises the level above 2 of the responder's suit. Thus, after 1C (opener) –P (opponent) -1S (responder) -3D (opponent) , a double would not be a support double. You need to discuss with your partner whether it is penalty or negative. Most would play penalty.

What you lose when playing support doubles is the ability for opener to make a negative or penalty double after the overcall.

THE OLD SWITCHEROO

Stan is applying for a job with a high paying electrician known to hire people who can think outside of the box. He tells Stan that if he can solve a particular problem, he will get the job. The boss puts Stan outside the door to a room from which light cannot escape. Inside the room is a lamp. On the wall next to Stan are four switches, one of which works the lamp, the other three do nothing. Stan needs to figure out which switch works the lamp, but the boss has taken away all of his tools. He has told Stan that he may flip the switches to his heart's content, but he can only open the door to examine the lamp once. What should Stan do with the switches to ensure he gets the job? (ANSWER BELOW)

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF WINSTON CHURCHILL

(thanks to Selwyn Skinner with a few additions of my own)

Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way they ask for directions.

You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks.

Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision

A nation that forgets its past has no future.

If you're not a liberal at twenty you have no heart. If you're not a conservative at forty, you have no brain.

Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

A good speech should be like a woman's skirt: long enough to cover the subject but short enough to create interest.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

One man with conviction will overwhelm a hundred who have only opinions.

However beautiful the strategy, you occasionally must look at the results.

Life can either be accepted or changed. If it not accepted, it must be changed. If it cannot be changed, it must be accepted.

We contend that a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to life himself up by the handle.

I'd rather argue against a hundred idiots than have one agree with me.

In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found them a wholesome diet.

Life is fraught with opportunities to keep your mouth shut.

This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true.

On the RAF during WWII: Never have so many owed so much to so few.

Churchill was highly critical of Clement Atlee who was a quiet unassuming but highly competent man. He indicated Atlee “*looked at life from the wrong end of a drain pipe.*” He noted that he was “*a sheep in sheep’s clothing*” and perhaps more mordantly, *A modest man, who has much to be modest about.*

At the depths of that dusty soul there is nothing but abject surrender.

An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.

An empty taxi arrived at 10 Downing Street, and when the door was opened, Atlee got out.

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.

If Hitler invaded hell, I would make at least a favorable reference to the devil in the House of Commons

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.

Churchill’s comment in the 1920’s regarding Russia, “*A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma*”

An all-time favorite:

Bessie Braddock to Churchill: “Winston, you are drunk!”

Churchill: “Bessie, you are ugly, and tomorrow morning I shall be sober.”

After someone chastised him for ending a sentence with a preposition, he replied: “That is a criticism up with which I will not put.”

Churchill had an ongoing battle of wits with Lady Astor:

Lady Astor: “Mr. Prime Minister, if you were my husband, I would poison your tea.”

Churchill: “Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink it.”

LADY ASTOR WAS NO SLOUCH HERSELF

I married beneath me. All women do.

I refuse to admit that I am more than fifty-two, even if that does make my sons illegitimate.

In passing, also, I would like to say that the first time Adam had a chance he laid the blame on a woman.

My vigor, vitality, and cheek repel me. I am the kind of woman I would run from.

One reason why I don't drink is because I wish to know when I am having a good time.

Pioneers may be picturesque figures, but they are often rather lonely ones.

Real education should educate us out of self into something far finer; into a selflessness which links us with all humanity.

The main dangers in this life are the people who want to change everything ... or nothing.

The only thing I like about rich people is their money.

The penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you.

Women have got to make the world safe for men, since men have made it so darned unsafe for women.

We women talk too much, but even then we don't tell half what we know.

Seeing all her children assembled at her bedside during her last illness: "Jakie, is it my birthday, or am I dying?"

A ____ WALKED INTO A BAR

A horse walked into a bar. The bartender said: "Why the long face?"

A mushroom walked into a bar. The bartender said; "We don't serve your kind here."

The mushroom said: "Why not? I'm a fun guy?" (funghi???)

A termite walked into a bar and said: "Is the bar tender here?"

A Roman walked into a bar. Holding up two fingers he said, 'Five beers, please!'"

Bono and The Edge walked into a bar and the bartender said, "Oh no, not U2 again."

ANSWER TO THE OLD SWITCHEROO

Stan flips switch "1" on for one minute then turns it off. He then flips switch "2" on for a few seconds then turns it off. Then he flips switch "4" on and opens the door.

If the lamp is off and the bulb is hot, then he knows it was switch "1". If it's off and the bulb is warm, then he knows it was switch "2". If it's off and the bulb is cold, then it was switch "3". And, obviously, if the bulb is on, then it's switch "4".