



OCTOBER 2021

NEWSLETTER



Sunday	Monday BBO	Tuesday	Wednesday F2F	Thursday	Friday BBO	Saturday	All games start 1:30 F2F games at Lessie Price Senior Center
					1 BBO	2	
3	4 Open Pairs	5	6 Club Apprec.	7	8 Open Pairs	9	
10	11 Club Apprec.	12	13 Club Apprec.	14	15 Club Apprec.	16	
17	18 Open Pairs	19	20 Club Champ.	21	22 Open Pairs	23	
24	25 Open Pairs	26	27 Club Champ.	28	29 Open Pairs	30	
31	ACBL adds a week of special games in most months – they do not always let us know in time for the Newsletter – we will notify you of any such games						

HAPPENINGS

A Paean to Ron Jaeger

He was a towering intellect, easy-going, and extremely tactful. Everybody liked him. In his quiet unassuming way, he lifted the Aiken Bridge Club to new heights. He broadened the circle of participation, grew the Club with new members, and led us through trying times. When there was a problem, he developed a solution. He anticipated complications before they arose. He was the glue that held us together. He was also an excellent bridge player. But, most important, he was my friend, and I miss him.

The Club restarted the Guaranteed Partner Program for Wednesday F2F games on September 15. 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.

Members of the Bridge Club meet for lunch at 1 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Steak House. Contact Dorothy Johnson for details.

Thanks to Alan Brooks for these two items: 3 Members of the ACBL resigned in Sep to avoid possible disciplinary action following allegations of cheating in online competition – Tobi Sokolow, a prominent member of the Bridge community, with almost 23,000 master points, along with her husband David and another player from Austin TX, Claudette Hartman. It seems like another case where prominent players think only of winning and not about following the rules.

In the USBF World Championship in Italy, there were questions about why Jeff Meckstoth was playing without Eric Rodwell, who was not in the tournament. All entrants were required to be vaccinated and Eric Rodwell's personal decision was not to do so. [Editor's comment: do anti-vaxxers spurn vaccines for smallpox, polio, measles, mumps, tetanus, rubella, chicken pox, whooping cough, shingles, diphtheria, etc.?]]

VIABILITY OF OUR CLUB / CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – Mike McComb

Ron's passing generated questions from members about the future of the club. Your Board has scrambled a little bit to figure things out, but we believe we have righted the ship and should be OK moving forward.

However, for too long our club has been overly dependent on one person – the Club Manager. When I joined the club it was Steve, and then it was Ron. They set up all the games, managed the directors, published the newsletter, made the boards, and who knows what else. If we are smart we will learn to do things differently in the future.

For the viability of the club, I hope we can all agree on a division of duties, including having more than one person who knows how to do each task. For example, does anyone other than Alan know how to run the dealing machine? I know Steve does, but he is not going to be able to make the boards for our F2F games from New Hampshire!

Here are some tasks I can think of that need to be done to make the club function:

- Set the monthly game schedule (with ACBL) – Lauren took a crash course on this, and Phoebe volunteered to also learn how to do it. However, this is so critical, we probably should have a third person
- Receive the monthly report from ACBL and pay the required fees. Lauren is planning on doing this, but again we need a trained backup
- Directing games – Ron was one of about six directors, and we really need someone to step in and take his place. Who else has taken (and passed!) the Director's course?
- Arrange for Directors - Jesse has stepped up, but we need someone to back him up
- Treasurer Duties – I obviously know what I have been doing, but even Phoebe as Assistant Treasurer probably doesn't know about our accounts other than how to deposit the game fees when I have been out of town. I have already contacted Security Federal about getting Lauren and Phoebe on the accounts, replacing Ron and Steve
- Making Boards – as noted above, somebody needs to be willing to split this task with Alan. Jim Gossage volunteered to also learn how, but we could use a 3rd person
- Website –it is quite out of date. It still says we play at the Croft House M-W-F ! Does anyone have any experience with modifying websites? Again two people need to know how to do this. It really shouldn't take much time
- Newsletter – Jay is writing it for now, but we really should have someone else who does it every other month, or maybe once a quarter
- Greeting Card Sender – Phyllis Pellarin is filling this role, but we need a backup
- File Form 990 – As a non-profit, we are not subject to tax, but we do need to make an annual filing with the IRS. Steve has been doing this, but it probably should be someone here in Aiken

The success of our Club depends on people being willing to step up and perform a task (*no matter how small*) to spread the load across a number of people. If you are willing to do SOMETHING to help make the club function, please contact any Board member. Thanks in advance for your consideration!

ONE NO-TRUMP FORCING

Originally part of Kaplan-Sheinwold, 1NT forcing is basic to 2/1 and is also used by many players of Standard American. After your partner opens 1 of a major, 1NT by you is forcing for one round and must be alerted as such. This allows for hands where you do not have enough to go to the two level and also lack 3+ card support for partner's major. Partner then rebids their major with a 6 card suit, responds in a 4+ card suit if they have one, and otherwise in a 3 card suit. The main problem that arises is when partner opens 1H with 4-5-2-2 distribution. Partner's response to 1NT will be 2C on a two card suit, unless opener has enough to reverse with a 2S bid. In all other situations, opener may be bidding a 3 card suit (for example, with 5-3-3-2 distribution). If opener bids 1S and responds 2H to 1NT, they must have at least 5S and at least 4H. When opener has 6-4 in the majors, it is usually better to repeat the 6 card suit, unless opener has a strong hand. If opener has 16+ points, they bid a 4 card suit at the 3 level or bid 2NT with no singletons.

Over opener's two level bid in a suit, a new suit by responder is a drop dead bid – responder should have a 5+ card suit and lack tolerance for opener's major. Thus, 1S by opener, 1NT by responder, 2C by opener, followed by 2D or 2H by responder tells opener that responder doesn't like either of opener's suits and has a long suit.

Responder can pass opener's second suit with the understanding that opener may only have two of them. If responder then bids 2 of opener's suit, it means responder has 2 card support (since with 3+ they would have raised). This allows you to sign off at the two level in a 5-2 fit.

In the specific situation where the bidding goes 1S-1NT-2H, responder should probably return to spades with 2S and 3H since the 5-2 spade fit plays better than a 4-3 heart fit. But stay in hearts with 4 card support. You do lose when opener is 5-5, but that is rare.

Responder can show good 3 card support by bidding 1NT over opener's 1 of a major and then bidding 3 of the major over opener's response. So, 1S-1NT-2C-3S shows a 3 card limit raise support. Therefore, a direct raise to 3S would show a 4 card limit raise. A direct raise to 2S would show 3+ card support with 5-9 points.

Under 1NT forcing, you lose the ability to play in 1NT when partner opens one of a major. However, many people play 1NT is only semi-forcing, especially if partner is a 3rd or 4th position opener (i.e., responder passed originally). In that case, opener can pass with balanced (=5-3-3-2) distribution, but probably should not pass with a singleton. Make sure you discuss this with partner – you don't want to pass 1NT when responder was about to make a 3-level support bid. By the way, if opener bids 1H, and opponent overcalls 1S, 1NT by responder is NOT forcing – it simply shows less than 3 hearts, a spade stopper, 6+ points, not enough to go the 2 level in a new suit, and no reason to make a negative double. Also, 1NT is NOT forcing over 1 of a minor.

JEWISH WIVES AND MOTHERS REDUX

An elderly Jewish man was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He had insisted his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to receive anesthesia, he said to his son: "Don't be nervous. Do your best. Just remember, if it doesn't go well and something bad happens to me, your mother is coming to live with you and your wife."

The remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served us nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found. (Calvin Trillin)

Did you hear about the Jewish horror film? – it's called "Debbie Does Dishes"

Did you hear about the new Jewish porn film? – it's called "Debbie Does Nothing"

How does a Jewish wife cheat on her husband? – she has a headache with the deliveryman

What's a Jewish wife's idea of a perfect house? – 6,000 sq. ft. – no kitchen

How does a Jewish couple perform sex doggy style? – the man sits up and begs, while the woman rolls over and plays dead

What is a Jewish wife's favorite position? – facing Bloomingdales

How many Jewish wives does it take to change a light bulb? – none – Jewish wives don't change light bulbs

What's the difference between a Jewish wife and a vulture? – a vulture waits until you're dead to eat your heart out

Why is a divorce from a Jewish woman so expensive? – because it's worth it

A 25 year old Jewish girl tells her Mother she has missed her period for two months and knows she is pregnant. Shouting and crying, the Mother says: "Who was the pig that did this to you? I want to know." Without answering, the girl picks up the phone and makes a call. Half an hour later, a stretch limo pulls up in front of the house. A mature and distinguished looking man steps out of the car and enters the house. He sits at the table with the Mother and daughter and says: "Your daughter has informed me of the problem. I can't marry her because of my personal family situation, but I'll take care of everything. I will pay all costs and provide for your daughter for the rest of her life. If a girl is born, I will bequeath two retail stores, a deli, a condo in Miami, and a \$5 million bank account. If a boy is born, my legacy will be a chain of jewelry stores and a \$10 million bank account. But, if there is a miscarriage, I'm not sure what to do. What do you suggest?" Until then, the Mother remained silent. She placed a hand firmly on the man's shoulder and said: "So you'll try again."

A religious family contacts a marriage broker regarding their unmarried 30 year old son. The broker comes over and asks many questions of the son and parents regarding the prospective wife / daughter-law. They, in turn, give her a long list of requirements. After some time, the broker returns and announces she has found a woman who is the right age for the son, is equally religious, loves children, wants a large family, is a wonderful cook, and is beautiful. The family is very impressed and excited about the prospects. But, the son then asks: "Is she also good in bed?" The broker answers: "Some say yes. Some say no."

Phone rings. Jewish Mother picks up the phone and answers.

Jewish Mother: Hello?

Daughter: Hi mom, can you take the kids tonight?

Jewish Mother: You're going out?

Daughter: Yes

Jewish Mother : With whom?

Daughter: A friend.

Jewish Mother: I don't know why you left your husband. He is such a good man.

Daughter: I didn't leave him. He left me.

Jewish Mother: You let him leave you and now you go out with anybodies and nobodies.

Daughter: I don't go out with anybody. Can I bring the kids?

Jewish Mother: I never left you to go out with anybody except your father.

Daughter: There are a lot of things you did and I don't.

Jewish Mother: What are you hinting at?

Daughter: Nothing. I just want to know if I can bring the kids over tonight.

Jewish Mother: You going to stay the night with him? What will your husband say if he finds out?

Daughter: My EX-husband. I don't think he would be bothered. From the day he left, he probably never slept alone.

Jewish Mother: So you're going to sleep over at this loser's place?

Daughter: He's not a loser.

Jewish Mother: A man who goes out with a divorced woman with children is a loser and a parasite.

Daughter: I don't want to argue. Should I bring over the kids or not?

Jewish Mother: Four children with such a mother.

Daughter: Such a what?

Jewish Mother: With no stability. No wonder your husband left you.

Daughter: ENOUGH!!!

Jewish Mother: Don't scream at me. You probably scream at this loser too.

Daughter: Now you're worried about the loser?

Jewish Mother: Ah, so you see he's a loser. I spotted him immediately.

Daughter: Goodbye, mother.

Jewish Mother: Wait! Don't hang up. When are you bringing them over?

Daughter: I'm not bringing them over. I'm not going out.

Jewish Mother: If you never go out, how do you expect to meet anyone?

HOW MANY APPLIES

I have a basket filled with apples. I meet a friend and give him half of my apples plus half an apple. I go a little further and meet another friend, to whom I give half of my remaining apples plus half an apple. Later, I meet a third friend and give them half of my then remaining apples plus half an apple. Finally, I meet fourth friend and give them half of what's left plus half an apple. At that point I have one apple. No apples were ever cut in half. How many apples did I start with? (answer at end of newsletter)

FROZEN SUITS

A suit is frozen when whichever side first leads the suit must give up a trick. Sooo, the idea is to get the opponents to first lead that suit. Generally, if you have QXX opposite JXX, you will lose three tricks in that suit if you are forced to lead it, unless one of the opponents has AK (and you guess correctly) or does something stupid. If, on the other hand, the opponents must break the suit, you will get a trick no matter how it is played as long as you duck the initial lead (and nobody trumps any of the first three rounds). If you have QJX in one hand and XXX in the other, leading up to the QJX will guarantee a trick as long as the A and K are in different hands OR the AK sits in front of the QJX. If you also have the 9 (for example, Q9X opposite JXX, or J9X opposite QXX), AND you must break the suit, the percentage play is to finesse for the 10, hoping the person in front of the 9 has the 10 and one of the top two honors.

Another example of a frozen suit is where you have A10X(X) opposite Q9X(X). if you are forced to lead the suit first, you could conceivably lose two tricks if you guess wrong for the K and J. But, if the opponents must lead the suit first, you will always limit your loss to one trick and, maybe, not lose any tricks if you guess right.

How do you force the opponents to break the suit first? Usually you will do a strip and end play. That is, you get rid of all cards in the other suits and then throw in one of the opponents. They have no exit card in another suit, so they must break the suit (or give you a ruff and a sluff). This is similar to when you have a two-way finesse for the queen. Why guess if you can strip the opponents of all their exit cards and then throw them in. It doesn't matter which one wins the trick, since they must lead the suit and, thereby, find the queen for you.

PIRATES

Two pirates meet. Each has a wooden leg. Each has a hook. And one has an eye patch. The first pirate says: "I lost my leg when the yardarm crashed down on it. What about you?" The second pirate says, "I was forced to walk the plank and the sharks got it." "How about your hook?" asks pirate number one, "I lost my hand in a sword fight." Pirate number two says: "Rusty nail caused gangrene. They had to cut it off." Pirate number one says: "How did you lose your eye?" Pirate number two says: "I was lying on the beach in Tahiti when a big bird flew above and took a crap. It landed in my eye." The first pirate says: "That's unpleasant but it doesn't make you lose your eye." The second pirate says: "It does if it's the first day you have your hook."

ANSWER TO "HOW MANY APPLES"

It must be an odd number. Working backwards, if I finished with 1 apple, I had 3 before I met the last friend. Before that I had 7, then 15, and 31. The answer is 31. (Do the math.)