



SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u> <u>F2F</u>	<u>Tuesday</u> <u>BBO</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>F2F</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>BBO</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	All games start at 1:00
				1	2 Open Pairs	3	
4	Labor Day NO GAME	6 Open Pairs	7 Intern Fund	8 Lunch	9 Open Pairs	10	F2F games at Lessie Price Center
11	12 CLUB Champ	13 Open Pairs	14 Club Champ	15	16 Open Pairs	17	
18	19 Intern Fund	20 Open Pairs	21 Intern Fund	22	23 Open Pairs	24	
25	26 TEAM C CHAM	27 Open Pairs	28 Intern Fund	29	30 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.				

Recognition Dinner

The Board of the Aiken Bridge Club has not forgotten that due to COVID concerns the Club has not had a chance to recognize several of our members for their Life Master achievements (initial or next level) over the time of the pandemic. We would like to rectify that situation by having a **Recognition Dinner on Wednesday, October 19th following that day's game.** The dinner will be catered by Newberry Hall and held in one of the ballrooms at Lessie Price Center, so we can just walk next door after the game. Please note this on your calendars to save the date. We hope to have a good turnout to congratulate these members on their achievements.

The registration process will be in the latter half of September and will be similar to that Linda Knox used for the Holiday Dinner last year. Some members chose not to attend that dinner because we did not require everyone to be vaccinated, so this time we will require all attendees from the Club (including spouses/guests) to be fully vaccinated.

The Club will pay the dinner cost for all members, and the spouses/guests of those being recognized. Other spouses and guests will be asked to pay \$20 toward the cost of the dinner, as they have previously.

Swiss Team Game, Fourth Monday, Sept 26, 2022

Lessie Price Center at 1:00 pm
Team Handicap Max 13 Points

Contact Sherry if you need help putting a team together

The Registration Form is on the Website

Labor Day

Lessie Price Closed

No Face-to-Face Game

Free Play Extended Through September

Although this program has not increased table count as much as we expected, we are seeing more players. Therefore, the Board has approved extending this program for another month. We are especially in need of players for our Tuesday BBO games. Please consider playing in this game or letting a Board member know when you think would be a better time/day. We picked this time because it was the second choice of those responding to the survey (first choice was Friday afternoon).

In order to encourage more participation in our games, the Board has approved a proposal to not charge "long-term" members any game fees for all games in the month of August or September! The intent is to return some of the money in our bank accounts to those of you who have consistently paid dues and game fees to the Aiken Club over the years. This will obviously be more easily done for F2F games since we will simply not collect a game fee from long-term members. For BBO, that option is not possible. We are making progress on a way to send one check to BBO and then credit a portion of it to our member's BBO accounts based on the number of games they have played. We do not want to get into an accounting nightmare, so please be patient with us as we seek to finalize a way to make this happen for those who play in the Club's online games.

Note this free play will NOT apply to those who are playing in consortium games. We estimate we are losing 1-2 tables to consortium play each day we play, and we really would like to see those folks come back to our local Club games. The Board feels a reasonable description of a "long-term" member is someone who has paid dues to the Club and played in a substantial number of our games for a four-year period. Most of you will know if you meet this description. We don't wish to get into any debates about who does or does not, so we will leave it on an "honor" system. We look forward to seeing you at the Lessie Price Center and/or on-line for more games!

Holiday Party – Mike requested a volunteer to organize this at the 8/1 F2F game. No one has yet responded. Until someone steps forward to organize this, we are at risk of not having a party. Both Mike and Lauren will be out of town and unable to attend. Newberry Hall still had some December dates a few weeks ago. Woodside cannot accommodate us on a Monday, and on a Wednesday, we would be limited to the dining room for both playing and eating.

The Board will support this event, but we need some Club members to step up and volunteer to organize and run it. If you and a friend or two are willing to do this for the sake of the Club, please let any Board member know.

The Guaranteed Partner Program is on hiatus for the summer. Please call Joanne Sheehan if you want to play in an Aiken Bridge Club game. Joanne will try to match you up with another player who also needs a partner

On Monday, October 3rd, the Guaranteed Partnership Program will resume. Every face-to-face OPEN game at the Lessie Price Center will always have a Guaranteed Partner on site. At the moment, we are not looking for any volunteers.

We are always looking for material and suggestions for newsletter articles. We would like to start a Q&A, subject to the limitations of the editor. Contact Jay Jacobs with your idea or questions. jayjacobs44@gmail.com

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

DOUBLE TROUBLE

(This article assumes readers are familiar with relevant scoring.)

Once upon a time there was the penalty double. Then, somebody came up with the take-out double, which, more or less, morphed into the negative double. From there, a number of different doubles developed, almost to the point of effectively eliminating the penalty double at low levels, since virtually all low-level doubles have another meaning, thereby encouraging light bids with little fear of being doubled. Sooooo, let's look at the more popular doubles.

Takeout Double

= low level double asking partner to bid an unbid suit – this is a “natural” bid since it is unlikely that you would double for penalties at a low level – thus, a player with a good hand and strength in the opponent's suit might trap pass, hoping partner will double so you can leave it in for penalties – takeout doubles imply opening count and at least 3 card support for all unbid suits and most likely no worse than 4 cards in an unbid major or 4-3 in the majors, if the double is over a minor – discretion is necessary based on vulnerability, at what level partner is forced to bid a suit, playing strength of the hand, shortness in unbid suits, etc. – if partner makes a minimum 1 level response and I have a minimum takeout double, I will pass since partner may have nothing (I forced them to bid) – further action

over partner's 1 level response implies game may be possible even opposite partner's presumed weakness – if I make a takeout double and then bid a new suit over partner's response, or give partner a double raise, I imply 17+ points since I am ratcheting the auction up another level after forcing partner to bid – doubles of weak-twos and weak-threes are generally presumed to be takeout, although partner can pass for penalties with a trump stack

Partner's responses to takeout doubles are based on strength, suit length, and potential fit – with 0-5+ points and no good suit, partner bids their lowest ranking 4 card or longer suit (if they are 4-3-3-3 with 4 cards in the opponent's suit, partner bids their lowest ranking 3 card suit) – if partner has 6-8+ points and a 5 card suit (or good 4 card unbid major suit), although you might be reluctant to go to the 2 level in a minor at the lower point count ranges, partner bids their suit and with 9+ points, partner jumps a level in their suit – if partner has more than 9+ points and no 5 card suit, they may want to cue bid the opponents' suit to show a good hand to invite game opposite the double, but unsure of where to play it (discuss with partner whether a cue bid of the opponents' opening minor is a good hand or natural in the minor, especially when the minor can be a short club) – a double jump by partner over my takeout double presumes a 6 card suit with an otherwise weak hand where partner should be able to make the bid based on the points you showed by doubling with your implied tolerance of all unbid suits – partner's response of 1NT to my takeout double shows 6-9 HCP and at least one stopper in the opponents' suit (thus, partner was going to respond that suit or 1NT anyway) – partner's response of 2NT to my takeout double = 11-13 HCP and at least a double stopper in the opponent's suit – partner's response of 3NT to my takeout double shows 13-16 HCP with a double stopper in the opponents' suit.

Negative Double

= everything from takeout doubles (above), and more – originally part of Roth-Stone, it is now a basic part of Kaplan-Sheinwold (K-S), and 2 over 1 – made at the 1 level with as little as 6 HCP to show the unbid major after partner's opening bid followed by an overcall (if the overcall was 1H, a negative double implies 4 spades, because you would bid 1S with 5 of them but over a bid of 1S, a negative double could be 4H, or 5H without enough values to go to the 2 level – thus, if I go to the two level, I must have extra values (more than 8 points) – nothing stops me from making a negative double with opening count after the opponents have bid two suits, with partner passing in between (it strongly implies the two unbid suits, although clubs may also be possible if the opponents are playing a short club) – if the opponents open 1 of a minor and raise to 2 of that minor (or bid 1D – pass by partner – 2C), my double virtually guarantees at least 4-4 in the majors (I might have more in one or both suits) – if partner then cue bids the opponent's minor, he is asking me to pick a major – if you have a good 6 card suit and a good 4 card suit, bid the 6 card suit rather than making a negative double (otherwise risk playing in a 4-3 fit) – after making a

negative double and hearing partner's response, only a cue bid is forcing (jump shifts and raises are invitational but not forcing) – in some bidding systems (such as K-S), negative doubles are unlimited in strength but most systems assume less than 10-11 points as you would otherwise have another bid (discuss this with your partner – negative unlimited is alertable)

Defense over negative and takeout doubles = redoubles show high-card strength and may expose a light or psychic opener, while a jump raise of opener's suit is preemptive

Note: penalty doubles are precluded when playing negative doubles – thus, pass and hope partner reopens with a double so you can convert it to penalty

Support Double

= opening bidder's ability to define level of support for responder's suit in a competitive auction – thus, after I open 1C, opponent bids a suit, partner then bids a suit, next opponent bids or passes, a double by me shows 3 card support of partner's suit – similarly, if the first opponent passed, partner responded a suit, and second opponent then bids, a double by me shows 3 card support of partner's suit – partner can then judge how high to go based on my minimum opener with 3 card support – note that if I had 4 card support, I would cue bid their suit – if I open 1C, next opponent passes, partner bids 1D, next opponent bids 1 of a major, my double may be support (3 cards of diamonds) OR negative for the other major, depending on partnership agreement (I would tend to treat it as negative for the other major since a potential 4-3 diamond fit is not usually useful) – my failure to make a support double (pass, rebid my suit, or bid another suit) strongly implies (1) less than 3 cards in partner's suit, or (2) I will show support later (e.g., I may have 5-4-3-1, 5-5-3-0, 6-4-3-0, 7-3-3, or 7-3-2-1 distribution) – unfortunately, the use of support doubles is mutually exclusive with penalty doubles, except in the rare case where partner has 4 cards in their bid suit and a stack in the opponent's suit

Responsive Double

= takeout double after opponents go to 2 or 3 level over partner's takeout double (after opponent opens, partner doubles, next person bids raises or bids new suit at 2/3 level, my double = takeout implying support for the unbid suits) – if the opponents bid a suit, partner overcalls, and the next opponent bids a new suit or supports his partner's suit, a double by me would be for the unbid major(s)/suit(s) and implies tolerance for partner's suit (since partner may not like any other suit and want to rebid theirs) – since such doubles are rarely for penalty, responsive doubles preclude penalty doubles – if the opponents rebid one of their suits at a higher level, a double there would be presumed penalty – discuss with your partner (1) how high you will go with responsive doubles (generally 4D) and (2) whether responsive doubles apply after a weak two bid or a minor suit preempt (since you may to reserve that for penalty or other conventions)

Maximal Double

= double to invite game when the auction does not leave room for any other approach – suppose I open 1S, opponent overcalls 2H, partner (bless their heart [no pun intended]) bids 2S, next opponent says 3H, then my double is invitation to game and 3S by me is simply competitive and NOT invitational – suppose, instead, I open 1S, opponent overcalls 2D, partner says 2S, next opponent says 3D, then a maximal double is not needed since a bid of 3H (= lowest available side suit) by me is a game invitation and 3S is competitive – in the last bidding sequence, some partnerships prefer to use the double for penalty (thus, a double of 3D = penalty, a bid of 3H = game try, and a bid of 3S = signoff) – this seems like a better treatment – some partnerships use maximal doubles only when both sides have found a fit while others only require the doubler's side to have a fit (discuss this with your partner) – in any case, partner need not accept a game invitation with a weak hand and may sign off at the cheapest level in the agreed suit

Reopening Double

= a double in the pass-out position asking partner to keep the bidding open – although partner may pass for penalties, more commonly partner will bid a new suit, rebid a previously bid suit you haven't supported, give belated support to your suit, cue bid the opponents' suit asking you to pick a suit, or, rarely, bid NT

DSI Double

= a double of a 3 level or high contract asking partner to “do something intelligent” based on the bidding – partner may then pass for penalties, bid NT, rebid their suit or support your suit, cue bid a new suit, etc. – similar to a reopening double

Snapdragon Double / fourth suit double

= double by 4th hand when each of the preceding players have bid a different suit – it implies 5 cards in the unbid suit and, probably, a doubleton in partner's suit – if you play this, discuss how high it applies

Thrup Double

= double in a competitive auction after partner opened, aimed at getting to 3NT when the bidding has been jammed by a weak jump overcall at the 3 level – it asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in the opponent's suit – doubler says nothing about unbid suit(s), generally denies a stopper in the opponent's suit, denies a 5 card major that could have been bid at the 3 level, promises 10+ points, and denies 3 card support for opener's major – this has a lot of requirements and may best be left to top tier players.

Conventional Double of 1NT

= double of 1NT to show (depending on partnership agreement) either (1) an equivalent hand (partnerships should discuss whether this also applies to weak NT) or (2) a long suit asking partner to bid 2C, which you will pass or correct

Lead Directing Doubles

= double of opponent's suit in a bidding sequence asking partner to lead that suit – it could be 2C or a transfer response over opponent's 1NT, a 4/5 level suit bid in response to an ace-asking bid, or a suit that was cue bid (where the cue bid might show second round control and you have A-Q, or even where the cue bid shows first round control and you have the ace so they will be ruffing air))

Control showing redouble after double of Blackwood response

= control-showing (either 1st or 2nd round control based on partnership agreement)

Lightner Double

= a lead directing double of a slam (or, rarely, game level no-trump contract) – since it would otherwise be rare to double a freely-bid slam or no-trump game, the potential penalty is small and the double can be put to better use – partner is asked to make an unusual lead, generally assumed to be the first bid suit of the dummy, but surely not a trump, a suit rebid by the opponents, a suit bid by either or both defenders, or an unbid suit – when it is a side suit by the slam-bidders, there is an expectation of a ruff of the opening lead

Striped-tale ape (re)double

= double of opponents' game when you believe they can make slam, since the doubled contract, even with overtricks, pays less than slam – likewise applies to small slam double when it appears opponents can make grand slam – the redouble arises when you take a sacrifice against the opponents' game, when they appear to have a slam, they double and you redouble to coax them into not bidding the slam – THIS IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART and is probably best left to the experts

And, let's not forget about redoubles. There are a number of them also.

Standard Redouble

= strength-showing bid after partner (opens or overcalls) and is doubled by the next opponent – many partnerships play that such a redouble implies no fit for partner's suit unless you subsequently support it – basically, a standard redouble means we have the balance of the points and should play the hand – the opponents should not play the undoubled – just remember, ill-judged doubles of game or slam contracts may attract redoubles, although it is generally not necessary to redouble as making a doubled game

or slam is usually good enough (in duplicate, but in IMPS/team games you may want to go for the jugular)

Penalty Redouble

= punish the opponents for having the temerity to double your contract – just be sure you can make it AND they are not doing a Striped-tail ape double on you

SOS Redouble

= call to partner to pick another contract – occurs when there is no possibility of playing at that contract (e.g., 1C/1D/1NT – double – pass –pass – redouble – asks partner to bid their best suit to avoid carnage) – similarly, after a 1NT opener, which is doubled, and partner bids 2C, which is doubled, a redouble by either opener or responder is SOS asking the other to bid their best suit.

ROCK GROUP

I am a rock group that has 4 members, all of whom are dead, and one was assassinated. What am I? (answer below)

ON MARRIAGE (thanks to Miles Hall)

Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. As time goes on you may wish you had a club and a spade.

GAME SHOW

“Welcome back to the show. Before the break, Joe here made it to our grand finale! Okay, now to win the star prize of \$1,000,00, all you have to do is answer the following question. In 90 seconds, name 100 words that do NOT contain the letter 'A'. Start the clock!" – Can you help? (answer below)

16, 27, 59, 82, 36

What is next number in the following sequence: 16, 27, 59, 82, ? (answer below)

SOME INTERESTING QUOTES

A belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness.

– Joseph Conrad, novelist (1857-1924)

The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.

– L.P. Hartley, writer (1895-1972)

No society that feeds its children on tales of successful violence can expect them not to believe that violence in the end is rewarded.

– Margaret Mead, anthropologist (1901-1978)

People who demand neutrality in any situation are usually not neutral, but in favor of the status quo. – Max Eastman, journalist and poet (1883-1969)

Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is.

–William James, psychologist and philosopher (1842-1910)

Even if you're on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.

– Will Rogers, actor, performer, humorist, columnist (1879-1935)

Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind.

– Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel laureate (1875-1965)

We all too often have socialism for the rich and rugged free market capitalism for the poor. – Martin Luther King, Jr., civil-rights leader (1929-1968)

A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep. – Saul Bellow, writer, Nobel laureate (1915-2005)

The decent moderation of today will be the least of human things tomorrow. At the time of the Spanish Inquisition, the opinion of good sense and of the good medium was certainly that people ought not to burn too large a number of heretics; extreme and unreasonable opinion obviously demanded that they should burn none at all.

–Maurice Maeterlinck, poet, dramatist, and Nobel laureate (1862-1949)

Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses. It is time for our better angels to prevail.

– Joe Biden, 46th US President (1942-)

The ultimate sense of security will be when we come to recognize that we are all part of one human race. Our primary allegiance is to the human race and not to one particular color or border. I think the sooner we renounce the sanctity of these many identities and try to identify ourselves with the human race the sooner we will get a better world and a safer world.

– Mohamed ElBaradei, diplomat, Nobel laureate (1942-)

It is almost impossible to carry the torch of truth through a crowd without singeing somebody's beard.

– Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, scientist and philosopher (1742-1799)

The greatest threat to freedom is the absence of criticism.

– Wole Soyinka, playwright, poet, Nobel laureate (1934-)

I daresay anything can be made holy by being sincerely worshipped.

– Iris Murdoch, writer (1919-1999)

No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic country.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, statesman and historian (1805-1859)

It has always seemed absurd to suppose that a god would choose for his companions, during all eternity, the dear souls whose highest and only ambition is to obey.

– Robert Green Ingersoll, lawyer and orator (1833-1899)

If an animal does something, we call it instinct; if we do the same thing for the same reason, we call it intelligence.

– Will Cuppy, journalist (1884-1949)

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

– Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)

A QUESTION

If a man says something and no woman is present, is he still wrong?

ANSWER TO ROCK GROUP

Mount Rushmore

ANSWER TO GAME SHOW

One, Two, Three, Four, Five.....One Hundred!

(count from 1 to 100 in ninety seconds – it's possible).

Alternatively, wait 90 seconds and then spout out any 100 qualifying words.

ANSWER TO 16, 27, 59, 82, 36 (36 – look at the title)