



# AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER



## HOLIDAY PARTY CHANGE

In the June Newsletter it was reported that your Board had decided to once again have our annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Reserve Club. Since this is no longer true, it must have been left wing fake news.

The Board held a special one topic meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> and elected to change the date and venue.

**The Annual Holiday Party will be Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Woodside Plantation Country Club. Please save the date.**

Why? Well, when Phoebe met with the folks at the Reserve Club to work out the details, they came back with a cost just shy of \$5000, a mere 40% more than last year. She was able to get this down to just shy of \$4500. Not impressed, she sought other venues (including a themed event called Holidays in the Stables at Sheikh whatever's place) and presented her findings to the Board. The Board selected the Plantation Club which should allow us to keep the cost near last year's level.

Some other pluses for this change: the Plantation golf courses are closed on Mondays, so parking should be less of an issue; the Croft House Resident Holiday Party is on that date, so we couldn't have a game that day; oh, and December 12<sup>th</sup> was not available at the Plantation Club.

## AUGUST SCHEDULE

This is the final month of qualification for the ACBL North American Pairs. In addition to six of those games we will also have three Charity Games in August. Other games of interest:

**Perfect 10 Team Game – Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> --** Perfect Ten Format with handicaps.

**Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (ST@C's) – August 22<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>** – your opportunity to win silver points at our club.

## AUGUSTA REGIONAL – CLUB CLOSED

The every so often **Augusta Regional will be held from Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day, Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.** The event will be held at the Augusta Downtown Marriott.

In support of our friends in Augusta, we will not have our usual games on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> or Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I urge you to participate in making this tournament a huge success. The schedule has all kinds of events to enable you to earn pigmented points. Gold Rush Events, Knockout Teams, Regular and Bracketed Swiss Teams and many others. Below is a link to the tournament schedule.

<http://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?sanction=1809021>

Go, Play Well, and Good Luck!

### Game Schedule – August 2018

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
	1-Aug Open Pairs\$	3-Aug Open Pairs\$
6-Aug Open Pairs&	8-Aug Open Pairs\$	10-Aug Perfect 10 Teams Handicapped&
13-Aug Open Pairs\$	15-Aug Open Pairs&	17-Aug Open Pairs\$
20-Aug Open Pairs%	22-Aug Open Pairs%	24-Aug Open Pairs%
27-Aug Open Pairs\$	29-Aug Club Closed -- Augusta Regional	31-Aug Club Closed -- Augusta Regional
\$ = NAOP Qualifier	& = Charity Game	% = ST@C

## NO TRUMP QUESTION – PART 2

Last month, in Part 1 of this article, I assured you it was not a political question about the POTUS. After the last month's worth of presidential activity, I'm not quite sure it shouldn't have been. Doesn't matter, we are where we are.

So, the question was do you open one (or two) no trump holding a five card major suit? Basically, I opined that you should open all balanced hands within your no trump point ranges 1 or 2 No Trump, end of story. The reasons are: **Simplicity** (we all know how to bid after a no trump opening); **Avoids Awful Rebids** (don't have to choose the least bad bid); and helps **Silence the Opponents**.

The major drawback is you are **in danger of missing your 5-3 or even 5-4 major suit fit** by not opening the five card major. As mentioned last month, we will now talk about how to alleviate this issue. First of all, if responder has a hand that is too weak to respond to 1 NT, you will miss the fit. Period. So be it. However, we can easily deal with game forcing and invitational hands.

**Invitational Hands** – let's assume the opponents are silent in these examples of invitational auctions. Note, I have used hearts as the 5 card major in these examples, but it could just as well be spades.

1NT--2NT – If, as opener, **you are accepting the invitation**, bid your 5 card major and responder will raise with 3 card support or bid 3NT.

1NT--2C--2H--2NT – If, as opener, **you are accepting the invitation**, rebid your 5 card heart suit and responder will raise with 3 card support or bid 3NT.

1NT--2C--2H--3H – Just bid 4H even with a 15 point minimum. Nine card fit and 23 HCP is enough for game.

**Game Forcing Hands** – If, after partner opens 1NT you have enough points for game, you can ask if she has a five card major by using a convention known as Puppet Stayman (probably should be called Five Card Stayman). Here's how it works.

After the 1NT opening, a 3C bid by responder shows at least one three card major but could also have a three and a four card major.

The 1NT opener rebids 3H or 3S if they have five cards in that suit. If no five card major, but a four card major, respond 3D. If no four or five card major, the rebid is 3NT.

Back to responder. If you have three in partner's five card major you have found your fit, so support partner, if not, bid the appropriate number of NT. If opener rebids 3D (showing a 4 card major) bid 3NT without a four card major, but if you also have a four card major, bid the one you don't have at the three level so partner will know you have four of the other. If he has four of that suit he will bid game in the major. The reason for this convoluted structure is to make sure the stronger hand is declarer.

Some of you will think it's kind of funky to bid a suit you don't have. Well, almost everyone plays Jacoby transfers to allow the strong hand to be declarer. This is kind of the same thing.

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Yeah, Ron, but I play this cool thing where 3C over 1NT shows a weak hand with five in each minor. So, when was the last time you used that cool thing? Probably never. I used to play that too (and still do with some partners), and it has yet to come up. Actually, I don't even recall it being used by an opponent either, so I'm guessing you can live without it.

Anyway, think about opening 1NT with a five card major. I think the benefits greatly outnumber the drawbacks and it will simplify your bridge life.

Have questions about this (or anything else), don't hesitate to ask.

## DID SHE OR DIDN'T SHE

Do what? Bid, of course. For some unknown reason, we have had a mini-epidemic of director calls concerning someone bidding or not. It usually entails a player pulling a call card out of the bidding box and then putting it back and bidding something else. According to ACBL Regulations, ***“A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching or nearly touching the table or maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made.”*** So, what the hell does that mean? Who knows? The normal complaint to the director is that I saw the bid she pulled out of the bidding box and then changed. Well, guess what, that's not a bid unless it meets the aforementioned nebulous placement criteria. Unfortunately, the criteria is subject to she said, he said, issues since it is so loosely defined.

The real problem here is the creation of unauthorized information (UI), which, in my opinion, is the bane of competitive bridge. If you are fingering bidding cards on the top half of the box and then select pass, or, even worse, vacillate between one bid and another or pass you have told your partner you have very close to bidding values, but not quite, without making a bid. Not quite fair in my humble opinion.

Is there a solution to this problem? Well, yeah, as usual, the solution is you. All we need to do is follow the second part of the ACBL Regulations on bidding box usage. ***“A player is obligated to choose a call before touching any card in the box. Deliberation while touching the bidding box cards may subject the offending side to the adjustment provisions of Law 16.”*** In other words, keep your hands to yourself until you decide what to do.

As long as we're here, let's talk about unauthorized information (UI). Following is the part of the Law regarding UI. I have spared you the rest of Law 16 because it is essentially incomprehensible.

### ***LAW 16 AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION***

***B. Extraneous Information from Partner 1. Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes remarks, questions, replies to questions, unexpected alerts or failures to alert, unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism. (a) A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.***

I have concocted the following egregious examples to try to explain the problem.

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**The “I’ve got more than my bid shows” huddle** – The uncontested auction is 1C – 1S – 1NT – 2NT – 3NT. So what? Well, the 1C opener made an *unmistakable hesitation* before rebidding 1NT and their partner raised to 2NT on a flat 9 count. The 1NT rebid shows 12 to 14 HCPs, but the hesitation makes it fairly clear she has more but didn’t want to open 1NT. That is UI, and the 2NT bid is a clear violation of this law.

**The “Self Alert”** – The auction is 1S – 1NT – 2S – 3D at which point the 1NT bidder says “I think I’m going to alert that as a transfer to hearts” (UI based on *remarks* and *unexpected alerts*). The 3D bidder, after nearly having a heart attack (UI based on *gesture, movement or mannerism*) after partner’s statement bids 3NT. The 1NT overcaller now passes 3NT holding AJxx of hearts after stating that 3D was a transfer to hearts, clearly taking advantage of partner’s UI.

**The “I’ve got about 10 points and A, K, or Q doubleton in your” Pass** – Another contested auction. P – P – P – 1C; P – 1S -- 2D – 2S; P – P; 3D? Seems somewhat reasonable (if you’re not picky) except that the player who passed after the 2S bid made an *unmistakable hesitation* before passing. The hesitation pass is a perfect description of the hand, 10 points or so and Honor doubleton of diamonds. The 3D bidder has KJ empty sixth of diamonds and six other assorted points so, absent the hesitation should not even consider another bid.

OK, enough with the examples. The normal excuse given to the Director by the player taking advantage of the UI is “Well, I was always going to bid that no matter what partner did.” This is, of course, just garden variety self serving noise. If you have UI your obligation is to choose the call least suggested by the UI.

**Very Important Point** – You are allowed to think if you have a problem, particularly if you eventually make a unilaterally forcing or non forcing bid. The onus is on your partner to not take advantage of your hesitation. That being said, it’s probably not a great idea to frequently put your partner in the position of choosing the worst bid of his logical alternatives.

Oh, by the way, I lied. These egregious concocted examples are actually things that I have personally observed (among numerous others) ..... right here ..... in our club.

Everyone, well, most everyone, wants to play in an environment where the results are determined by a pair’s performance at the table on each particular hand, not by the passing of unauthorized information between partners.

**So, let’s all try our very best to clean up this crap.**

**No more munging around in the bidding box, do your best (not always possible) to avoid generating UI, and, most important, if you have UI, make sure you don’t take advantage of it.**

Fall  
Sectional

**AIKEN**

South  
Carolina

**September 28 – 30, 2018**

**Location: Odell Weeks Activity Center  
1700 Whiskey Road (Hwy 19)  
Aiken, SC**

