



SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER



THE ART OF MEDICINE

I received this by email from Jay J and I liked it so I decided to share it with you. Not only that, but it fits pretty good in this space.

Five surgeons from big cities are discussing who makes the best patients to operate on.

The first surgeon, from New York, says, 'I like to see accountants on my operating table because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered.'

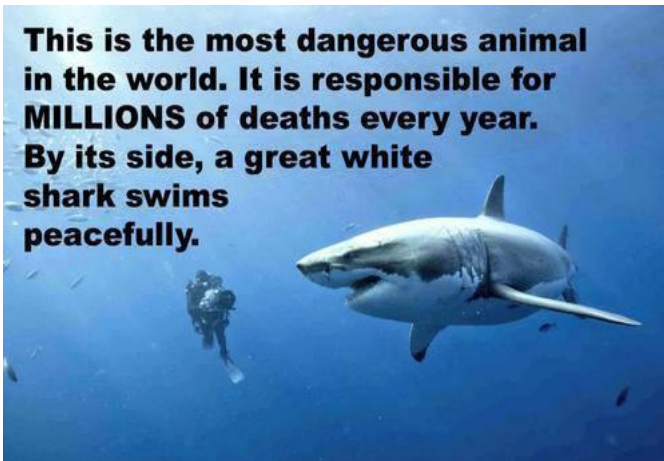
The second, from Chicago, responds, 'Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is color coded.'

The third surgeon, from Dallas, says, 'No, I really think librarians are the best, everything inside them is in alphabetical order.'

The fourth surgeon, from Los Angeles chimes in: 'You know, I like construction workers...Those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over.'

But the fifth surgeon, from Washington, DC silenced them all when he observed: 'You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, no balls, no brains, and no spine...'

This is the most dangerous animal in the world. It is responsible for MILLIONS of deaths every year. By its side, a great white shark swims peacefully.



CLUB CLOSED

The Club will be closed the following days in September.

Monday, September 3rd – Augusta Regional
Friday, September 30th – Aiken Sectional

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

September is International Fund Month -- This is the silliest month of the year in ACBL Land. All clubs participating in these International Fund Games are contributing to a Fund used to defray the expenses of our millionaire professional players and their billionaire sponsors as they travel to various international competitions such as the World Championships. I'm sure this must be a very good idea, but I'm also pretty sure I don't quite know why. Each September game as an International Fund Game so four dollars for each table in play is going to this *worthy* cause.

Game Schedule - September 2018

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
3-Sep Club Closed -- Augusta Regional	5-Sep Open Pairs	7-Sep Open Pairs
10-Sep Open Pairs	12-Sep Open Pairs	14-Sep Perfect 10 Teams Handicapped
17-Sep Open Pairs	19-Sep Open Pairs	21-Sep Open Pairs
24-Sep Open Pairs	26-Sep Open Pairs	28-Sep Club Closed -- Our Sectional
All Games International Fund Games		

IT TAKES TWO, BABY

That's the title of a Motown classic from the sixties performed by the late great Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston. If you would like to listen to the song, here is a link.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=marvin+gaye+kim+weston+it+takes+two&view=detail&mid=F32674E829DB658D90A1F32674E829DB658D90A1&FORM=VIRE>

The song doesn't really have anything to do with this article, but it's a really good piece. For those of you waiting for me to provide a link to some highbrow music, well, *That'll Be the Day*. Yep, Buddy Holly chamber music is about as highbrow as I get. Wow, how did I even get here? I guess it doesn't really matter, since I don't know where I'm going anyway.

Oh, I remember, I was going to write about things that it takes two people to do. Well, here are a few. It takes two to; tango; play chess; play house; play two handed solitaire; and be a bridge partnership.

And, most importantly, it takes two to kerfuffle. We've had a little too much kerfuffling going on at our games recently. This is really easy to fix if we all decide to. I sure we all know there are two sides to every kerfuffle, yours and the idiot's. But did you ever see a kerfuffle with only one participant? I'm pretty sure I haven't. Yep, it takes two, baby. A couple of examples.

What you said made me mad so I'm lashing out at you. – well, welcome to the third grade playground (or is it the Trump White House? Oh, yeah, same thing). The only one who can make you mad is you; it's your conscious choice. Ask yourself if your interpretation of the comment is what was intended. Either way, why not just drop it unless you really like being angry.

It's not what you said, it's the way you said it. – well, could be, but maybe it's the way you heard it. Say I'm at a party with a bunch of people I don't know. During the course of the evening I meet two different women and comment that they look very attractive in their gowns. One smiles and says thank you, the other creates a scene by slapping me in the face and screaming "don't you ever hit on me again". Seems like they may have interpreted the comment differently. Might have been better if woman number two just smiled and walked away.

So, let's do this. Do your best not to make comments that can be misconstrued, and, if you are offended by a comment, think about following the advice from Lennon/McCartney in their last studio album.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Let+It+Be+Original+Version&&view=detail&mid=0459CD34266C45268D4E0459CD34266C45268D4E&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Bottom Line. It takes two, baby! Don't be one of them.

HELP WANTED AIKEN FALL SECTIONAL

Our annual Sectional Tournament will be held Friday, September 28th through Sunday, September 30th at the Odell Weeks Center. In conjunction with this event, we are pleased to offer a number of truly exciting career opportunities.

Construction and Demolition Services – you will join a team of committed professionals to transform the Weeks Center Gym into a beautiful bridge playing venue. At the conclusion of the tournament you will help demolish the bridge playing venue and return it to its previous glory as a smelly old gym. The construction phase will occur on the Thursday prior to the event and the demolition phase will begin at the conclusion of the Sunday Swiss Teams.

Jesse is responsible for the C & D services and will offer additional details when appropriate.

Culinary Services – you will have the opportunity to showcase your culinary skills by selecting or creating goodies to contribute to your tournament for the enjoyment of all of the players. If your culinary expertise is limited to eating what you see (people also known as men) and you wish to contribute, think about getting some Coke products in those two liter plastic bottles. As you know, bridge players burn lots of calories thinking about what they are doing. So, they need to replenish those spent calories, and they are really good at it.

Pat B is responsible for this tournament function and has requested (which, I will, of course, do) that I have a sign-up sheet available for people wishing to make a culinary contribution. Look for it at the club around September 12th.

Participatory Services – this is your opportunity to really impact the success of your Sectional. It's really easy, all you need to do is play, play, and play some more. If you are interested in being a standby player for any session, please let our Partnership Chair, Cathie, know.

As I mentioned a few newsletters ago, I'm pretty sure this is the last rodeo for some of our usual suspect tournament volunteers. So, what better way to show your appreciation than making this event a success?

Here is a link to the tournament schedule.

<http://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?sanction=1809126>

Fall Sectional **AIKEN** South Carolina

September 28 – 30, 2018

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



THE WORST

This write up by Larry Cohen was passed on to me by Bonnie and it really warmed my heart. You see, for as long as I can remember, my partners have opined (and rightfully so) that I am the absolutely worst opening leader on the planet. While I'm sure that's still true, I now have proof positive that I have not made the most awful lead in bridge history.

Amazing, this opening lead caused a twenty six trick swing. My personal best is a mere

THE WORST LEAD IN THE HISTORY OF BRIDGE

I actually witnessed this one at the table. I was South, playing with David Berkowitz in the National Championships in Hawaii in 2005.

Dir West Vul N-S	NORTH Berkowitz ♠ K3 ♥ AKQJ1092 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ3	EAST Nunes ♠ AJ10985 ♥ 754 ♦ 95 ♣ 82	
WEST Fantoni ♠ Q62 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ108743 ♣ 65	SOUTH Cohen ♠ 74 ♥ 86 ♦ KJ2 ♣ KJ10974		

Italian world champion, Fulvio Fantoni, preempted 3♦ with the West hand. David Berkowitz (too strong to overcall 4♥) doubled. With clubs stopped and the form of scoring ("matchpoint oriented") I tried 3NT. David, without checking for aces (4NT would have been invitational), jumped to 6NT—off 2 aces. Embarrassing!

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♦	Double	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

What would you lead as West? It is easy to see now that there were several winning solutions. The ♦A, to look at dummy, would have worked (followed by the "obvious" spade switch). Even better would be an opening spade lead. Much better. East could win and play the ♦9 through my ♦KJ. West could win, continue spades, and East, after taking 6 spade tricks, could play his other diamond through. Now the defense gets 7 diamond tricks. All 13 tricks on a spade lead—down 12! But, West, after long thought, guessed to lead a heart! I had the first 13 tricks. I claimed amidst a flurry of Italian cursing—likely West asking why East didn't bid 3♠ over the double to help him on lead.

On the actual heart lead, I took all 13 tricks. On a spade lead, the defense could have taken all 13 tricks. That is a 26-trick swing on opening lead—the all-time record. Or, at the least, tied for the all-time record.

The next time your partner is displeased with your opening lead and tells you something like: "Partner—that was the worst lead in history"...you just tell him, "No, it wasn't."