



MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



WARNING – THE RULES ISSUE

This issue of the newsletter is devoted to rules. No, I'm not referring to our one and only, and too often ignored, rule regarding going into the playing area prior to signing up. Five or six months ago I promised both you and me that I would not mention that again, so I won't. For those who find the word "rule" anathematic please feel free to substitute "suggestion."

Also, in honor my fourteenth newsletter, I am going to finally write something about bridge. Imagine that, a bridge article in a bridge newsletter – will wonders never cease.

While I choose to take this lovely letter as an affirmation that we are well on our way to NBCoP, it's difficult to reconcile it with the perception, held by too many non ABC members of the Aiken bridge community, that we are a bunch of nasties. It also doesn't exactly jibe with some of the complaints (a few dubious in my humble opinion) I get about fellow members.

So, what's the deal? Well, the dreaded Golden Rule looked at from a different angle. Call it tolerance and respect for others points of view.

Well, looks like I babbled my way out of space. More on this next month. Or not.

RULES OF NICE

As threatened in the February Newsletter it's time to talk about becoming the nicest bridge club on the planet (NBCoP). There's no better place to start than that old standby, the Golden Rule. That's right, "He who has the gold, rules." No, no, that's not it – now I remember. "Do unto others before they do unto – sorry, wrong one again -- I'm getting a bit confused here. I'm guessing you know what I mean, so I'll just move along. Following is a letter to the editor of the ACBL Bulletin (I'm pretty sure *ACBL Bulletin* is supposed to be in italics, but I don't know how to do that) published in a recent issue. It is reproduced here with permission from absolutely no one.

Matthew 25:35

In early October, my husband and I had to evacuate our home, as we were in the path of Hurricane Matthew. In order to free our minds of anxiety and worry, we decided to visit the Aiken SC Bridge Club and toss some cards. The club's cordial reception, kindness and generosity will always be remembered. They allowed us to play for free and then welcomed us as old friends. The hospitality of this club should be a shining example to all clubs in the future.

LESLEY FELLS
Callawassie Island SC

Continues in next column

MARCH SCHEDULE

March is the third month of the year. So, we have three Club Championships, three Charity Games, and three Special Events. See the bulletin board for details.

Game Schedule - March 2017

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
	1-Mar Open Pairs	3-Mar Open Pairs\$
6-Mar Open Pairs	8-Mar Open Pairs\$	10-Mar Team - GNT Qualifier
13-Mar Open Pairs\$	15-Mar Open Pairs	17-Mar Open Pairs!
20-Mar Open Pairs!	22-Mar Open Pairs!	24-Mar Open Pairs
27-Mar ACBL Senior Pairs	29-Mar Individual Game	31-Mar Open Pairs
! = Club Championship \$ = Charity Game		

RULES OF CONVERSATION

There is an amazing amount of literature regarding the art of conversation, with most pieces offering rules (oops, sorry, suggestions) to help one improve their conversational skills. Amongst the many rules presented there are two that stand out to me as vital. They are:

1. Don't repeat yourself
2. Listen to and respect the other person's opinion

So, what the ____ does this have to do with anything? Well, folks, we are talking bridge bidding. Bidding is simply a conversation between you and your partner and it too has rules. What are the rules? Two of the most important are 1 and 2 above. But there is also a third rule:

3. Don't ever forget Rule 1 or Rule 2

You hold ♠ xx ♥ AKQxx ♦ Kxx ♣ Qx. You cleverly open 1♥, lefty overcalls 1♠, 2♥ by pard and the annoying 2♠ by righty. You have a great heart suit and a 14 count, so, do you compete another level? Well, you shouldn't, if you do you are repeating yourself. Your hand looks suspiciously like a 1♥ opener, nothing more, nothing less. If you bid here you are showing something more than you said you had originally. Either a sixth heart or 16-17 points. Pard has another bid coming and will know what to do. Repeating yourself when pard has another bid coming is not only bad bridge, but disrespectful of their opinion.

This time you pick up a really nice hand, ♠ Axxx ♥ x ♦ AKxx ♣ AJxx. You open (opps pass through out) 1♦, 1♥ by pard, 1♠ by you, 2♥ by pard, and you? Pard is telling you that if hearts are not trump, her hand is probably useless. If you feel an overwhelming obligation to rescue partner by bidding again, just remember, Jesus Saves, not you! Listen to her, respect her opinion and pass. You have four tricks for her in Hearts, she has one or none for you in whatever you bid. Time to get out of Dodge before the doubling starts.

RULES OF BRIDGE

The bridge landscape is littered with numerous laws, rules, suggestions, and strategies from the pens of noted authorities like Larry Cohen, Marty Bergen, Mike Lawrence, Jerry Helms and many others. All of these rules strive to help you improve your bridge skills and become a nicer player. The problem is there are far too many to fully digest and remember.

To help you cut through all this clutter, following is my short list of the ones that are universally successful.



Yep! Works Every Time