

Aeron Ries

New Regional Master



Aeron was diagnosed with systemic sarcoidosis, which is a rare autoimmune disease. She became unable to work by 2011, and found myself unable to get out of the house much. She had to give up my hobbies as they revolved around athletics and endurance.

Aeron was originally introduced to bridge at age 20 by my parents. She did not know any systems or conventions and did not stay with bridge for any period of time that allowed me to develop an

understanding of it. After my illness struck bridge became the only thing she could do in order to try and keep her brain active and to have some sort of social connection. In 2011 she began playing on Bridge Base Online. Aeron met so many kind people who began to demonstrate how to play. In 2012 she was taught my first system, 2/1. She had the advantage to have made connections with dozens of bridge pro's around the world, many of whom saw what they believed was talent. They took her under their wings and began to teach her BRIDGE. Aeron had some mentoring done by Benito Garrazo, Claude Vogel, and many other pro's that she could mention.

Being mentored by the pro's gave her opportunities to play with them, and more importantly, against them. For about 1.5 years most of my bridge was played online and most of her initial learning of the game was online. (She still has yet to read her first book). She was thrown into the "hot seat" quickly and this only allowed her the chance to sink or swim against high level players. They believed in her and her game became strong enough to become a strong contender against these mentors.

In December 2013 she met a player from Greece, Nikos Theotokis. They had a mutual desire to form a partnership. He is a bridge teacher, who has the interest to teach bridge in the USA and ACBL. For the last year he has been her strongest mentor and steadfast partner. Nikos taught her precision and carding systems which have absolutely made her "see" the caliber of the "so called game". Nikos has written his own system that has some precision bases, but has also added his own theory to the system and that alone is probably why she has done so well at my most recent regional/sectional events. Their system is difficult to bid against and so precise in how they communicate their holdings they rarely miss bidding games/slams and we are able to aggressively bid even their part-score hands.

Defensively, because of our disciplined carding, their opponents find themselves challenged to overcome them.

Aeron owes her progression in her game to many but Nikos is the person who dug his feet in with me and got her to PLAY. Aeron credits any success she may be giving to me to my partnership, as this game requires this in every aspect.

Bridge has saved her life. Aeron's illness left her so physically and mentally unable to function she had a period of time where she found myself unable to set or accomplish any meaningful tasks. She doesn't view bridge as a game. Bridge has given her a way to express herself, connect with others, and dream again. It was never a goal to earn points or become a bridge master or earn rankings. She had to admit receiving this bridge achievement has now motivated her to try to earn rank structured by the ACBL. I don't fully understand how to achieve my next goal or how the points work but she is researching it more through ACBL and looking for events to participate in so she can "see" her progress. When her health allows it is a great pleasure to participate live at the events ACBL hosts.

She appreciates and respects what the ACBL has done. Aeron sees the hard work that goes in to organizing and managing events and making the conditions for players the best that they can be. The ACBL has strong directors and workers who even motivate her to do better. ACBL keeps the environment for competing exceptional and she is proud to be a member.

Aeron has more she can add to this story. There are some specifics she can speak about that carry humor and humility (a good Bob Hamman story) so talk to her if you want a more detailed story because she have a lot more to say about this "game".