

UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT!

Official Publication of ACBL Unit 191

January 2011

Unit-Wide Double KO Event Starts January 15

Extended Competition Open to All Unit Members

Sign up now for the Double Knockout Team Event which begins this month and will extend into the summer. The format is similar to KO's held at Sectional and Regional Tournaments except that a team must lose two matches before being eliminated. Twenty-four board matches may be played with a month's period at a time and location agreed upon by each team's captain.....at a local bridge club or even in a member's home.

Entry fee is \$40 per team (whether 4, 5 or 6 members) for the first two rounds and \$20 per match after that. Entry application deadline is January 15th. It is anticipated that teams will be divided into three brackets with the top bracket open to all players. The other brackets will be limited, based upon the masterpoints total of the teams. If qualified, a team could enter both a limited bracket and the open bracket.

The Conditions of Contest are posted on the Unit 191 website or are available in hard copy at most area clubs. Put together a team and plan on competing in this exciting event.

New Unit Sectional "Carolina Dreamin' " Coming in March!

Put March 4th through 6th on your calendar now and start putting together your partnerships and teams. For more information, see the flyer at your local club or on the unit191bridge.org website.

Grab Your Partner and Come on Down!

Win a Free Three Night Mountain Getaway!

Why a Double Knockout?

John Torrey Shares His Thoughts on the Event

Perhaps my first reason is selfish: I want to play in one. Let me explain.

When I started playing real bridge, [censored] years ago, I lived in Westchester County, New York. Every year their unit had a double knockout event; I was quite a new player, but I remember this event fondly today. It was exciting, in the same way a tight pennant race is - extending over several months, with teams having their ups and downs. And it was fun to play in, despite some features I'll tell about later. Part of the fun came because the matches were usually played at the home of one of the players. This gave an unusual (to a duplicate player) emphasis to the social side of the game - it was fun to host a match (sort of like having a small party) and it was fun to go the houses of players we knew only from seeing them at a club or tournament. The playing atmosphere was competitive but relaxed. I remember hearing of a match where one of the guests was known to drink a bit. His host decided he could have an advantage by making sure liquor was in plentiful supply. It failed,

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Upcoming Tournaments

Jan 7-9	Whispering Pines (So. Pines)
Jan 21-23	Morganton
Jan 24-30	Wilmington Regional
Feb 10-13	Raleigh
Feb 25-27	Wilmington Sectional
Mar 4-6	Durham "Carolina Dreamin' " Sectional
Mar 10-13	Charlotte
Mar 18-20	Wilson
Mar 25-27	Salisbury
Apr 11-17	Gatlinburg Regional

Why a Double Knockout (continued)

because it turned out the habitual drinker could consume quite a bit and still play quite well – but his host couldn't.

"Double knockout" means that you play one match a month against other teams, until you are knocked out by having lost twice. Teams with one loss play each other in elimination matches, and no-loss teams play other no-loss teams. Each match is 24 boards long, scored by IMPs. Play in our double knockout will probably continue to July.

The Westchester event had features that would doom it today. There were no brackets – 25 to 30 teams entered every year and produced one winner. And it was seeded, which meant that the team with the most masterpoints would be matched against the one with the least. My teams had occasional and memorable victories in the one-loss division, but never won our first match, playing teams with much more experience than we had. We never finished "in the money," but went back eagerly the next year, because we enjoyed the whole thing so much.

Several of my friends and teammates from different areas recall similar events in the areas they came from, and report a similar enjoyment in the whole experience. I'd like to recreate that kind of enjoyment in our unit – and that's my less selfish reason.

Our 2011 double-knockout will be different from the ones I remember. First, it will have brackets, so less experienced teams will not have to compete against the "heavy hitters" of the unit. Also, it will be restricted to players who are members of our unit. (Normally a player living in Raleigh is not a member of our unit – but she can switch units very easily and without changing address or anything else. Some players may switch units just to play in this event.) The Triangle Bridge Club will host matches if needed, and will loan supplies at no charge to people who want to play at home.

I'm hoping our event will provide an enhanced social aspect to the game we enjoy – and some memorable competition. Come on in! Entries are open until January 15; the first-round matches will be played by the end of February.

Membership Report

Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair

During December our membership rose to a record high of 524, an increase of 19 (3.8%) over this time last year. Eight new ACBL members joined us - **Vicky Albright**, **Edith Johnson** and **Billy Mack** all of Durham, **Liz and Reece Schuler** of Chapel Hill, **Phylliss Woody** of Durham, and **Laurie Wrenn** and **Tracey Wrenn** both of Roxboro.

We also were blessed to have seven transfers into our Unit -- **Karen Brown** of Chapel Hill who comes from the Central Florida Unit, **Vanessa Brown** who recently moved from Raleigh to Durham, **Karen Lazarus** of Chapel Hill from the Eastern Massachusetts Unit, **Sandy Manheimer** of Cary, **Sondra Sielicky** of Chapel Hill from the Palm Springs Unit, and **Mary Vickers** and **Jack Whetstone** both of Apex. We bid a warm welcome to all these players.

December brought three rank changes and congratulations go to:

Club Master:	Janet Hitti
Sectional Master:	Katie Wilson
Life Master:	Patsy Whitehurst

Let me wish to all our members and their families a happy, safe and healthy New Year and continued success at the table.

Next Mentor/Mentee Game – Free Pizza!!

Kay Richardson- Mentor Program Coordinator

Just a reminder that our next Mentor/Mentee game is coming up Saturday, January 15. We're having pizza for lunch at 1:00, followed by game at 1:30. Please let Kay Richardson or Barbara Haskell know if you plan to attend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We have several mentees who would like to play in this game whose mentors are not available. If you would be willing to play with someone, and enjoy some really good pizza, please get in touch with Kay or Barbara. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Deadline for articles for February Alert!

is February 2nd

Email martyd2@aol.com.

Bridge Lessons and Workshops

*All of our classes are taught by
ACBL-certified teachers:*

Wednesday Play and Learn Classes- Modern NoTrump Bidding. Starting January 12th at Triangle Bridge Center- Wednesdays, 9:30-12:00. Designed for novice to intermediate players, this five-week course provides practice on using the modern NT bidding ranges, Stayman and Jacoby Transfers, minor suit fits and reaching slam after Notrump bids. Instructor-Henry Meguid, hmeguid@nc.rr.com. \$50. Signup deadline January 5th.

Play of the Hand - Thursdays, January 20 through March 17, 9:30 am - noon. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill. Learn how to develop a plan, recognize winners and losers, consider one's alternatives, and execute the most effective play. Suitable for those who have taken a bidding class as well as the player who has been away from the game for some time and wishes a refresher. Text: *Play of the Hand in the 21st Century*. Fee: \$90 (9 weeks). Instructor: Harrison Brooke. For questions, please call him at 919-489-0210 or email (preferred) hbrooke@nc.rr.com. **To register, please call 919-968-2070 and indicate** whether you will order the text (available from Amazon) or wish the instructor to do so.

Team Games- What's All The Excitement About?

Many newer players are reluctant to enter team events at the tournaments because they aren't familiar with the procedures and strategies. During the month of February, Marty Demko will be visiting local clubs to present a 30-40 minute orientation lesson on team play. Club managers or interested groups of players can email him at MartyD@aol.com to schedule a time and place. No charge- our objective is to significantly increase participation in team events at the March Durham Sectional.

At The Clubs:

Roxboro DBC: The club held a great holiday party on December 11. We had 14 tables, good food and a great time paid for by table fees during the year. Gerry O'Neil won the 2010 Masterpoint Race with 38.85 points with Bea Hubbard a close second with 38.53 points. The lead kept going back and forth between these two for the last few months and our regular players had a lot of fun rooting for their favorite. Their usual partners came in a close 3rd and 4th.

Triangle Bridge Club: All of the weeknight team games this month will be qualifiers for the nationwide Grand National Teams competition- Wednesday, Jan. 12th, Monday the 17th and 31st, and Thursday the 27th. Bring your team out to practice up for the full schedule of tournaments coming in the next few months. Or just come with a partner- teammates are guaranteed. The monthly Eight-Is-Enough game will be held Sunday afternoon, January 16th.

Durham BC: The club offers a special deal every Wednesday at 9:30 am at Triangle BC. You can play for \$5 for a savings of \$2 per player. (Special games are \$6). In addition, TBC has a concurrent 199er game (when there are adequate tables) that also benefits from the lower entry fee.

The Durham Bridge Club started in the 1940's at the Forest Hills Club House on University Drive. The founders are long gone, but Peggy Barbee, Mary Lou Johnson, Lona Ruth Kennedy, and Harrison Brooke have been long time members. In 1987, the club relocated to St Paul's Lutheran church in Durham. During major construction work at the church in 2009, it moved to the Bridge Center on Fayetteville Street, where it stayed until the TBC opened last February.

We encourage everyone to take part in our Wednesday game at 930 as we are a friendly group AND it is a great DEAL (pun intended). Please join us.

Tournament Report

Many clubs in the Unit held special silver point STAC games during the week of December 13-19 (despite the nasty weather) . Peggy Barbee and Mary Lou Johnson of Durham were the top masterpoint winners in the Unit, earning 8.65 for the week, including a 5th place finish (out of 346 pairs) on Wednesday morning. Deanna Larus of Chapel Hill was the leader among the non-Life Masters.

Several members spent the New Year's holiday at the Charleston SC Regional. Congratulations to Sandy McCay of Chapel Hill, who earned over 41 points during the week.