

UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

Official Publication of ACBL Unit 191

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UNIT 191 BOARD

The objectives of Bright Leaf Bridge Unit 191 are preserving, promoting and stimulating interest in duplicate bridge, conducting tournaments, encouraging the highest standards of conduct, promoting the development and organization of affiliated clubs within the Unit, and conducting other activities within these objectives. The By-Laws of Unit 191 define the powers and duties of the Board as:

- **Conduct, management, supervision and control of the business of the Unit**
- **Conduct of Unit tournaments**
- **Employment and discharging of employees, and the supervision of their conduct and fixing of their compensation**
- **Overseeing all budgets and funds associated with tournaments and special programs**

We meet these objectives by overseeing the finances and membership of the Unit, conducting sectional tournaments and unit games, coordinating the mentor/mentee program and a bridge camp for children, financially sponsoring youth participation at the national level, publishing the Alert, providing an online site which includes a directory of all active members, and organizing and subsidizing the yearly gala.

The Unit Board is engaged solely with Unit business. It has no jurisdiction over individual clubs other than to encourage their development and organization. Recently, we provided a mediator to Unit club owners, encouraging them to settle their differences. The club owners alone are responsible for any agreements and/or changes they may wish to make as long as these changes do not conflict with our Unit's objectives.

Unit 191 Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair

Our 556 total membership for the end of January held through February with but a few changes in the composition. It's a pleasure to welcome new ACBL member **Carma L. Burton** and transfer members **Denise J.** and **Michael T. Hoffman**, all of Chapel Hill. The Hoffmans come to us from Unit 153 in Charlotte. We're glad to have all as part of our bridge family. Three of our Future Life Members were reinstated but sadly five went inactive, and another member transferred back to Texas.

February was a good month for rank advancements and **Deanna Larus** took a giant leap, moving up to Life Master with enough points to go to Bronze Life Master. We're pleased for and proud of you, Deanna. Others moving up include:

Junior Master	Rosalie Bateson
	Levi Diala
	Kye Hedlund
	John Pinkerton
	Robert Thorstad
Club Master	Fay Beth Wedig
Sectional Master	Alice Hughley
	Bobby Pinkerton
Regional Master	Linda Owen
NABC Master	Mary Newman
	Carol Wilcox
Silver Life Master	Gale Meyer

Congratulations one and all!!

I have word from a trusty source (her partner Dave Schreiber) that **Connie Namm** fulfilled her gold point requirement to become a Life Master at the Charlottesville Regional in the waning days of February. For now, I'll whisper good wishes to her (and to you too Dave) and shout them when I get official notice from ACBL. Well done!!!

CAROLINA DREAMIN' TOURNAMENT WRAP-UP

The unit's March sectional, Carolina Dreamin', was held March 7-10 at the TBC. This year's tournament broke the record for table count—an amazing 360 tables! There are so many people who volunteered for the tournament and deserve thanks for their efforts. So here goes.....

- TBC Hosts—**Jay and Darleen Bates**
- Directors—**Jay and Darleen, John Torrey**
- Hospitality Co-chairpersons—**Jackie Marks** and **Dave Schreiber**
- Partnerships—**Kay Gruninger** and **Dave Streifford**
- Caddies—**Diane Saulsberry** and **Linda Harris**
- Kitchen Manager—**Holly Davis**
- Kitchen Helpers— **Carol Schachner, Maggie Lindquist, Betsy Schoof** (2 sessions), **Gale Meyer, Ed Fuller, Linda Harris, Sigrid Olin, Joyce Jenzano, Linda Hansell,** and **Katie Wilson,**
- Set-up and Clean up—**Ray McEntee, Eric Larson, Linda Harris, Robin Marin, Carol Schachner, Ingrid Toschlog, Ahren Ames, Diane Saulsberry, Jim Cunningham, Joyce Jenzano,** and **Janet Hitti** (who vacuumed the entire place at least twice)
- Photographer—**Leonard Beeghley**
- **Linda Harris**—who was there from early morning until late at night and who did about everything
- **Everyone** who made cash or food donations—the food contributions were outstanding—my guesstimate is that there were at least 15 dozen deviled eggs consumed plus so many other delicious homemade baked goods and salads
- **All members** who played and supported the tournament
- Co-chairman **Jim Bean**—who so ably steered us all in the right direction

It was the first time being hospitality chairwoman for **Jackie Marks** and she did an amazing job— co-chairman **Dave Schreiber** did the beautiful flowers, kept an ample supply of ice , and was always available to do whatever was needed to be done. . Jackie and Dave certainly did the majority of the work. Their time and energy is certainly appreciated.

Thanks to everyone—it's a joy to be part of a unit with so many terrific volunteers.

Barbara Martin, co-chairperson

MASTERPOINT WINNERS

The award for earning the most masterpoints at the Carolina Dreamin' Tournament playing with at least two people, goes to unit member **Rosalind Lin**, who earned 39.05 points. Her name will be added to the plaque with the previous winners. Other winners were:

Mike Rice	31.90
Sandy McCay	24.17
Irene Adams	12.93
Wayne Stuart	12.33
Chris Moll	11.97
Kay Joyce	11.62
Randy Joyce	11.62
Cliff Kaufmann	11.28
Jill Kaufmann	11.28
Pat Livers	11.20
Claire Sobel	11.20
Marilyn Braun	10.54

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

April 4-7	Charlotte NC Sectional
April 5-7	Virginia Beach VA Sectional
April 5-7	Charlottesville VA Sectional
April 12-14	Greenville NC Sectional
April 15-21	Gatlinburg TN "Smoky MTN" Regional
April 26-28	Greenville SC (D-7 GNT Open and Flight B final) Sectional
March 25-31	District 7 StaC

MENTORING GAMES

Mentors and mentees are encouraged to mark their calendars for the following games:

Saturday, April 13, at 1:00
 Tuesday, May 14, at 1:00
 Saturday, June 1, at 1:00—includes lunch

Co-chairwomen—Sharon Crane and Linda Harris

TROMBONE

Submitted by Randy Joyce

How many of you have ever held a Trombone? How many of you have ever even seen a Trombone? How many of you are thinking about calling the guys in the padded jackets to pick up poor old Randy, who has obviously gone round the bend?

Let's approach this from a different angle. How many of you have ever seen or heard of Robert Preston in the immortal musical, The Music Man, belting out "Seventy Six Trombones Led the Big Parade....with one hundred and ten cornets close at hand"? I'd bet quite a few would answer, yes, if I phrased it this way. Trombones (taken from the song) is a term that a good friend of mine coined to describe a 7-6 hand at bridge!

In 1998, Kay held not 1, but 2 trombones in a span of three days at a Williamsburg regional. No computer dealt these beauties; people did. The remarkable thing was that they both had 6 Hearts and 7 Clubs. Truly, this was a once in a lifetime occurrence. I will not dwell on the second hand since it had a happier outcome, but I will bare my soul on the first, where I was the goat. On Wednesday's trombone, I picked up the innocuous collection of Axxx, K, Txxxx, Txx. Kay opened 1 Club, I bid 1 Spade, and she reversed to 2 Hearts. As per our methods, I would repeat my Spade suit with 5. If I chose to support her club suit, I could either force to game with 3 Clubs or else bid 2 NT as a relay to 3 Clubs with a bad hand, and we would rest there unless partner had an exceptional hand. I plussed up and bid 3 Clubs. Kay now had a chance to bid 3 Hearts to show a 6-5 distribution and maybe not so many HCP in case I wanted to get frisky. Instead, she bid 4 Hearts!

What the heck was that? I have been playing bridge for a long time and have never heard that auction before. I am usually a very quick player, but I had to stop and ponder. I will not bore you with the thoughts that ran through my mind, but I finally concluded that I had a minimum in not only HCP but no extra Club length. I bid 5 Clubs which ended the auction. Kay held — QTxxxx—AKQJxxx.

She had made a great bid, but I dropped the ball before getting close to the goal line. She was attempting to get me to focus on my Hearts, since if we started out with 2 losers, we would certainly finish up with 2 losers. I had the singleton K of Hearts and that should have been the only thing on my mind. I should have jumped to 6 Clubs since I knew we wouldn't lose 2 Hearts! We scored +420.

The rest of our set was reasonable, and we were up 7 IMPs after the first half. There was still reason for optimism. Our teammates came back and professed a not great round. I was having a bad feeling about things. As we compared scores, our lead had shrunk to 3 IMPs. Trombones was the last board. On a very different auction at the other table, the opposing team also bid only 5 Clubs, but were doubled. -650. Away went the board, and with it, the match. It took me a while to recover, but now, after fifteen years, I am proud to say that I can function normally again.

TRIANGLE BRIDGE SCHEDULE

(INCLUDES TARHEEL AND DURHAM BRIDGE CLUB GAMES)

We offer both limited point games and open games with a guaranteed partner at most (* indicates to call ahead if partner needed).

Monday afternoon—**1:00 OPEN and 0-500^^^**

Monday evening—**7:00 Open *** (Third Monday is usually teams, come with a partner and teams are guaranteed)

Tuesday afternoon—**1:00 Limited 0-500 and 0-99^^^**

Tuesday evening—**7:00 Lessons**, play and review for new and beginning players (0-50)

Tuesday evening—**7:00—Open play and review**—play 15-18 boards. Discuss the bidding/play of selected hands

Wednesday morning—**9:30 OPEN**

Wednesday afternoon—**1:00 OPEN**

Wednesday evening—**7:00 OPEN ***(Second and fourth nights are usually teams, come with a partner and teams are guaranteed)

Thursday morning—**9:15 Limited 0-1000**

Thursday afternoon—**1:00 OPEN**

Thursday evening—**7:00 Open play and review**—play 15-18 boards. Discuss the bidding/play of selected hands

Friday afternoon—**1:00 OPEN**

Saturday morning—**9:30 OPEN**

Saturday afternoon—**1:30 Special events**—call or e-mail

Sunday afternoon—**2:00 Special events**—call or e-mail

^^^ If you buy an entry to the lower point game and for some reason there are not enough tables that week to hold a separate game (weather, regional tournament), you will have to be added to the higher point game BUT the pair having the highest percentage of that group will receive free plays for another game.

CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE

- Tuesday afternoons will now have a 0-99 game and 500 point game. ^^ See the above message if there are not enough tables to hold a separate game.

- There will now be a separate 0-500 point game on Monday afternoons. ^^ (See previous message) Three tables are all that is needed to host a separate event. A two table event can happen but is not a great movement.
- Thursday morning games are now 0-1000 points

To try to have non-playing directors during the afternoon games, we are asking for players to sign up to be the guaranteed partner. We already have a volunteer for Monday afternoons but we need volunteers for the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon games. There will be a "sign up" sheet on the pencil table. Please consider signing up for an afternoon or two. You will get to play for free. If you are not needed that afternoon, you will receive a free play to use another time.

GNT qualifying games: We still have two open nighttime qualifying games scheduled for April 10 and April 22 but we are also going to have a Saturday afternoon game on April 6 (1:30 start). The Saturday afternoon game will be STRATA-FLIGHTED. What does that mean? It means it is an open event BUT the C's will ONLY play against other C teams and the A and B teams will play against each other. Half red/half black points will be given to the winners and you don't have to play to play in the district finals to play in any of the GNT games. Bigger points may be earned plus an opportunity to get red points.

PRO-AM GAME: A Unit sanctioned Pro-Am game is scheduled for Saturday afternoon March 30. Bigger points! (This is not part of the mentoring program). Please let me know if you would like to play. The plan is to take all the names and do a random draw for partnerships. The cut off for Pro and Am players will be determined based on the people who sign up. I will get a "signup" sheet ready and place it on the pencil table.

The April EIGHT IS ENOUGH game will be held April 21.

Darleen Boone Bates

THE ADVENTURES OF DUKE AND CAROLINE

The second in a series of articles on bridge rules, ethics, and general information submitted by Sandy McCay and Randy Joyce. In the first episode, Carolina and Duke played in a game where they learned the proper use of a STOP card. Read on to see what they have found about their latest adventure in an open game.

Dramatis Personae

Caroline....Smart, vivacious, trusting

Founded her own company at 25, now retired at 50 and seeking new challenges

Wants to learn to play bridge the right way, both technically and ethically

Duke.....Rich, cavalier, devil-may-care

Made his money the old fashioned way, he inherited it

Sees bridge as a social outlet

Not above bending the rules to advance his status

The McAdoos...Elderly couple from the 299er game

Buzz and Jim....College students

Over the course of many weeks, other characters will be introduced to our little drama. Any relation to real life persons will be purely coincidental.

DIRECTOR, PLEASE

Fast forward six months from our last episode

Duke and Caroline had settled into a nice routine at the local game. They tried to play no more than three times a week unless there was a Special Game. Carolina was HOOKED big time and would play every morning, noon, and night if the doors were open. Duke was a lot more laid back and really only wanted to play as a means of appeasing Caroline.

“Duke, I think we should consider playing in the Open game,” said Caroline after just having a very satisfying 58% game.

“We’re not ready,” countered Duke.

“What do you mean ‘Not Ready’? We have taken lessons upon lessons. We have played steadily for six months and our scores are getting better and better,” replied Caroline.

“It’s not the same,” protested Duke. “The people are much more cutthroat in the open game. They even call the director to punish newcomers when they step out of line.”

“Oh Hogwash,” seethed Caroline. “That is just propaganda from those who never want things to change and never want to be exposed to different things. Buzz and Jim have graduated and they speak in glowing terms about how many new things they have been exposed to in the big game. Don’t be a wuss; let’s give it a whirl!”

Duke could feel his defenses crumbling and agreed to play ONCE. If it was no fun, they would retreat to their comfort level. The next Monday happened to be a Club Championship game, and they agreed that this would be the time when they would try to take their game to the next level.

As Monday afternoon approached, Caroline was as excited as the first time she had played duplicate bridge. She kept telling herself to do nothing to upset the more experienced players and bring the wrath of the director down on their heads. When Duke went to buy the entry, Caroline told him to try and get the same table as Buzz and Jim so that they could ease into their new environment. This didn’t work since it was a special game, and the director was trying to seed the field. This is an effort to make sure that all the best players don’t sit in the same direction, or in the case of multiple sections, sit in the same section. Duke and Caroline had amassed about 25 points and started out against another pair who had less

than 50 points.

The first few rounds were uneventful, but Caroline sensed that their scores were not very good. She hoped (prayed) that Duke would not do something stupid to try to get the bus back on the road. It so happened in round five that they were to pay against the Really Good Guys. This was the pair that they had been warned about. The RGG's had too many master points to count and they were said to eat new players for breakfast. "Please let us not cause trouble," thought Caroline. "How can I get an edge?" thought Duke.

The first hand was uneventful in the bidding, but Mr. RGG executed a squeeze in the play of the cards. "Wow!" thought Caroline. "That was really impressive. I wonder how he knew to play it that way." "Another zero," thought Duke. "It's time to get back in the ball game." Mrs. RGG opened 1 Spade and the auction quickly escalated to 4 Spades. Duke made the opening lead of the diamond 10. Poised behind it was the club 8. He saw that the two cards were stuck together, but thought that if played together and the director was called, it might seem that the RGG's were beating up on newcomers.

Duke said, "Whoops! I seem to have two cards stuck together. I guess that I have a penalty card."

Mrs. RGG in the sweetest tone imaginable called, "Director, please."

Well Duke had never heard that said so nicely. He turned to Mrs. RGG and said, "Did you just say please?"

"I sure did, Honey," she replied. "The director is everyone's friend when it comes to an irregularity. He will sort this out in no time."

"I thought that it was just a penalty card," Duke offered.

"Heavens, no," she replied. "A card is never a penalty card until the director deems it so. Also, you may have created a major or minor infraction depending on the size of card and whether it was inadvertent or not. Calling the director is something

that newcomers may feel is a punishment directed at them, when nothing could be further from the truth. It is to protect everyone."

After several moments, the director arrived at the scene.

"How may I be of assistance?" he asked.

Mrs. RGG explained what had happened. The director looked at Duke and reinforced what happens when an irregularity occurs. "Play ceases and the director should be summoned. Players should never make their own rulings at the table. Director calls should always be courteous, but they should be made." He even made a little joke: "That's why we get the big bucks, you know." The director made his ruling and the players continued to play the hand. As it turned out, the exposed card made no difference in the play and both sides got an average score.

Duke and Caroline continued to be a little outgunned, and when the final results were tallied, their percentage was a lowly 39.7 Duke saw this as an end to the notion that they would play up. Caroline thought, "What a marvelous opportunity to play with better opponents and learn."

She saw.....and felt.....the squeeze, and planned to ask Mr. RGG about how he set about achieving it. Caroline also saw that there was no stigma attached to a pair if there was a director call from their table. She now understood that the director is someone who is trained to make sure the game runs according to the rules and to ensure that no hard feelings arise between players when an irregularity occurs. She knew it would be a while before she could drag Duke back to "play up," but he also knew that there was a lot to learn from more experienced players.

It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents.

Alfred Sheinwold