

UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

Official Publication of ACBL Unit 191

July-August 2013

CLUB AND MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

Beginning October 14th, the Unit will be sponsoring a special Club and Member Appreciation Week. This is an opportunity to add to your points closing in on the annual Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races! The special unit games will include all afternoon games on: October 14th, October 15th, October 16th (morning, afternoon and night games)* and October 18th—and includes all the clubs in our unit. A special thanks from the unit to our Clubs and Members! **Mark your calendars now**—don't miss the opportunity to gain points.

UNIT 191 DOUBLE SESSION CHAMPIONSHIP ON OCTOBER 16TH

On Wednesday, October 16th, there will be a Unit sponsored Double Session Championship for both the Open section and the 299er section with cash prizes, bigger points and bridge galore. The winners will be the pair or individual who has the highest combined percentage in both sessions (you may have different partners for each session). The Open will be stratified and the winner of the 299ers will be the overall winner of that section. Following is the lineup:

Open Double Session Championship

1st Session—9:30AM Durham Bridge Club at the TBC—Wednesday morning

2nd Session—1PM Tar Heel Bridge Club at the TBC—Wednesday afternoon

299ers Double Session Championship

1st Session—1PM Tar Heel Bridge Club at the TBC—Wednesday afternoon

2nd Session—6PM Triangle Bridge Club at the TBC with a mini-lesson beforehand—Wednesday evening
(There will be a separate game for each session if there are enough tables)

Food will be served before each session with a special lasagne dinner** served at 5PM.

***You may elect to play one of the session games on Wed. and not the other. It will still be a special game.**

**** Sponsored by The Game Spot, PlayersMeet.com and NCbridgelessons.com**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Holiday Gala and Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 8, 2013**, at the Rizzo Center. Co-chairwomen, **Doris Elkin and Robin Marin**, have worked hard to make this popular event the biggest and best ever. Find a partner and plan to attend this lovely affair.

LEARN-TO-PLAY BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASSES

I'd like to announce that I'll be teaching a new bridge class for beginning players. **The 10-lesson series will begin September 24 at 7:00 and the class will be held at the Triangle Bridge Club on Revere Road.** The charge for the classes will be \$10 per lesson, pay-as-you-go. Each lesson will be about 2 hours long, and the first two classes will be free.

This class will be very different from other beginning bridge classes of which I am aware. I have taught classes in the traditional style, but gave it up because although my students enjoyed the lessons, they seemed to learn a great deal of information **about** bridge, without learning to play and enjoy it. It was something like teaching swimming in a class where the students never actually get wet.

There will be some traditional teaching in each class, but most of the learning (and lesson-time) will be actually playing. For the first five lessons, we will play MiniBridge, a game with no bidding, derived from regular bridge. The declarer will look at the dummy and decide the contract; the play will be just like "real bridge," and we will keep score.

There will certainly be a great many "mistakes" made in these classes. Part of the class will be learning to deal with these, and a regular feature will be hands from major championships in which experts did outrageously wrong things. Part of learning bridge is learning from your mistakes, learning to live with your mistakes, and learning to be gentle with your partner about *his or her* mistakes. Fortunately, there are very few bridge mistakes that are so complex that you will not understand what was right in a few minutes—and then it's time for the next hand.

Bridge bidding as practiced by experts is a vast and subtle landscape of situations, and

solutions adapted to the particular needs of each situation. Many beginner bridge classes teach solutions to problems that the students do not know **are** problems. My objective will be to build a general understanding of the problems, and not to teach solutions in a vacuum. We will not do any bidding until we have a good idea of what bidding is attempting to accomplish. The bidding tools I do teach will feel primitive to experienced players.

If you are already playing bridge and looking for ways to improve your game—this class is not for you. But if you have friends who know you play, who might be wondering what it's all about, I hope this can be a good introduction to the beauties and frustrations of the game. For more information, students may call me at **919-933-8760**, or e-mail **JohnCTorrey@aol.com**.

Submitted by John Torrey

MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

The Mentoring Program for 2013-2014 starts in September. If you wish to be a mentor or mentee, please complete the form and place it in the folder provided on the table near the entrance at the Triangle Bridge Club. Mentors are needed—this is a good way to "give back" something to the game that we all love to play.

Questions about the program may be directed to Co-Chairs:

Sharon Crane—scbridge@earthlink.net
919-489-4903

Linda Harris—lharris166@nc.rr.com
919-414-6716

The first Mentor/Mentee special game is scheduled in October, more information will follow.

YOUTH BRIDGE CAMP

The summer youth bridge camp held at the TBC for two weeks in June was another successful event thanks to **Maggie Lindquist**, the instructor, and many volunteers from our unit.

The group of bridge campers in attendance included several grandchildren of unit members. Phillip Patillo, whose grandparents are **Grammy Virginia** and **Pop Pop Bob Wagner**, Max Morgan is the grandson of **Sigrid and Jack Olin**, and Dannie, Kevin, and Maggie Johnston are the grandchildren of **Eric Larson**. It was only at the end of the session that Maggie learned that Hugo Germino's granddaughter, Amy Germino, was in attendance. Hugo Germino is the bridge player who started the award given to the player at the summer sectional who attained the highest score playing with at least two different partners. Many of these students are already playing in regular games and have joined the ACBL.

Following are statements from the students describing their week at camp.

Max Morgan:

"I recently attended the bridge camp held at the Triangle Bridge Center. It is not the first time I went to this camp, and I am learning many new things every time. It is great because it is just a lot of fun and it is a game that we will be playing for life. The teachers are great and they make everything so easy to understand. I have had great experiences at this camp and it has been a perfect way to learn bridge."

Danny Johnston:

"Bridge camp at the Unit 191 Bridge Center has been an excellent experience. The instructors are phenomenal, leaving me with the required knowledge to go on and play bridge and continue learning for many years to come, I hope."



The head instructor, Maggie Lindquist, possesses seemingly boundless patience and is not only a masterful bridge player, but an enlightening teacher. She not only teaches the rules and appropriate strategies of bridge, but also exudes a contagious love of the game. I feel blessed to have been given an opportunity to learn from a person of her ability. The camp is divided into two weeks, the first being a basic introduction to the game and the second a week of more advanced topics. Students come never having seen a bridge hand in their lives and leave with the confidence and know-how to continue playing bridge and to go on learning more to refine their game. By the end of my second week, I had been hooked on the game and have been playing ever since. This summer I returned to the second week of the camp and not only refined topics I was already familiar with, but learned all new material. I learned a lot about bridge and have had a ton of fun, and would highly recommend the Youth Bridge Camp at the Unit 191 bridge center to anyone with the slightest interest in learning bridge."

Kevin Johnston:

I first learned about bridge from my grandfather. He had been playing and talking about playing for many years. One day my brother, Danny, and I

were staying at our grandparent's house when my grandfather brought up bridge camp. We knew little about the game so we decided that it would be fun. So we went and we did have fun. The next two weeks our grandfather, my brother and I learned enough bridge to play in games at the bridge center. We first learned how the game was played after the contract was established then we would learn a bid, then practice some boards using what we learned. The teachers, Maggie and Darleen, were extremely kind, helpful, and experienced. We enjoyed it and learned so much we convinced our sister to go this year, and will try and get our cousins to go next year."

Maggie Johnston:

"Last year both of my brothers, Danny and Kevin Johnston, went to Youth Bridge Camp. They loved it so much they thought I should go too, so this year I attended the camp and loved it! So not only did I go to the first week but I also went to the second week. It was as much fun as the first. I think I could owe that to two things: the game of bridge and Maggie Lindquist. She was a great teacher. You could tell her understanding and love for the game. I can't wait until next year.

Maggie shared this note from **Jody Bartlett:**

"A marvelous visit from Philip of bridge camp to our Tuesday evening bridge night. He was fabulous last night, placed second in C, and it was a delight to watch him in action. He made 2 contracts at the 5 level at my table alone, all by himself. He played with a very serious expression and my favorite moments observing were overhearing what he muttered to himself while he played. Leading the 2 of clubs to him, I overheard him mutter to himself, 'She is trying to finesse my king.' Not true but marvelous he was considering the possibility. On another occasion he decided he had put down the wrong bidding card and my partner and I agreed to let him put it back, rethink the matter, and start over. At this point I heard him mutter to himself, 'Let's just put that back in the box and pretend it never happened.' Maggie, are all bridge teachers and directors taught to say this? Inflected exactly like Darleen and Jay who have said it many times to me. I am sure if the

camp youth at play—they would have a blockbuster and parents everywhere would be enrolling their kids!

Bravo Maggie! Bravo Philip!

Best regards,
Jody Bartlett

Philip Patillo: (Age 9)

"I thought in Bridge Camp they took a very nice approach. They did not teach it all at once. We were taught a few things, and then we got to play that kind of hand instead of teaching you everything at once and then having you try to remember it all and play that in your game. Our instructor was really nice. She taught us things that we were ready to learn. I thought that I learned so much. I got to learn finesses, Stamen, Jacoby Transfers, Weak Twos, and a lot about bidding. I have played several times since camp, and I like it even more each time. The first time I played at a game with my grandmother, we got .28 points, and I joined ACBL. I have so few points and am just amazed by how many points people can get. Some people have thousands, and I just can't imagine how they did that! Part of why I like bridge is that it is a game where you have to think a lot and you are challenged. I enjoy bridge and I would recommend it to others."

Volunteers who helped Maggie during the week were:

First and foremost **Darleen**. She helped to purchase food for the event and lugged the food into the kitchen. She also relieved Maggie both Wednesday afternoons of the camp. She and Jay provided hand records and boards for specific examples of teaching practices and a special set of boards for the No Trump lesson day. **Janet Hitti** and **Linda Harris** provided snacks and lunch and made sure the other players at the center stayed away from the food for the campers plus cleaned up after each session. Grandparents who helped were **Eric Larson, Virginia Wagner, Linda Baugh, Jack Olin** and **Carol Crotty**. **Danny Johnston** also filled in during the first week to make a fourth when one camper couldn't attend.

NEWEST LIFE MASTERS

The newest life masters from our unit include a husband-wife pair, **Paul and Janet Fantz** and **Phyllis Fuller**. Janet acquired her required points at the Richmond Regional and Paul got his last silver points at Friday morning's game at our sectional tournament in July. Phyllis got the required points in a club game in July.

Janet started playing bridge in 1963 when she began dating her future husband, Paul. Both of their parents played bridge so there were always bridge games when they visited each other's homes.

When Janet retired as a school psychologist with Wake County Schools in August of 2008, she needed a challenge and new focus in her life, hence, duplicate bridge for master points. What she enjoys most about the game is the immediate feedback and sense of accomplishment when things go well. She always enjoys the competitive nature as well as the "rules" that structure the game.

Her favorite partners are her husband, Paul, and her good friend **Joyce Herr**. The players who have had an influence on her are **Marty Demko**, an excellent teacher who helped her make the transition from Goren bridge to Standard American, and **Catherine and Bob Williams**, who encouraged her and Paul to begin going to tournaments before they had too many black points. She also wants to thank the players at Middle Creek and those at the Tuesday afternoon game at the TBC for being so kind and helpful.

Janet and Paul moved to Cary in July of 1979 when Paul was hired as an Assistant Professor of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University. They have three adult children who reside in this area. They are thrilled to have their family live nearby as well as seven grandchildren and three grand dogs.

In addition to bridge, Janet and Paul enjoy cruises, coach tours, reading, going out to eat, attending concerts and plays, and going to NC State basketball games.

Look for Paul's comments and statements in a future Alert—Paul and Janet are cruising in the Mediterranean.

Congratulations Paul, Janet, and Phyllis!

Phyllis Fuller started playing social bridge when she was in high school. She began "real" duplicate bridge about 3 1/2 years ago, although she has played with a little group she calls "social bridge with boards". For many years, a favorite pastime was having friends for dinner and an evening of bridge.

When asked what she enjoys most about bridge, Phyllis replied that she like the friendships, competition, and keeping her mind active with new learning. Also, it beats pushing the vacuum cleaner.

Phyllis is grateful to **Lucy Terrell**, her dear friend and frequent partner who persuaded her to start playing duplicate. Lucy was incredibly understanding and forgiving of her mistakes, and putting up with her when she was so nervous that her hands shook. She is also thankful to Jamie Sue Schmidt and Jan Davis (from Eastern NC), along with **Donna Walther** and **Paul Morrisette**, who had the confidence in her to be willing to have her as a teammate in a Regional Knock-Out play. She also enjoys playing with a number of friends in the area: **Lucy Terrell**, **Robin Marin**, **Penny Dabal**, and **Anne Boyd** being the most frequent.

The most memorable moment for Phyllis was in Virginia Beach when Paul Morrisette returned to the table and told Donna Walther, Lucy and me that we had just won enough gold points for me to make my Life Master requirement. I cried in relief! Although I had earlier met all my gold, red, and silver requirements, I still needed points of any kind. A few days ago on a Tuesday morning when Darleen announced at TBC that I had just earned the remaining half point needed for my Life Master, and in addition Robin and I had come in first in overall—I was overjoyed!!

Phyllis is a real "Durham" native born in the old Watts Hospital, but moved away after finishing at Duke. She returned to Durham after living abroad and "up North" for 13 years. She has a daughter and granddaughter, who live too far away—Tuscaloosa, AL. Other than bridge, Phyllis has traveled in about 70 countries on 6 continents, enjoys photography, working on her computer and reading. She enjoys needlework but her home has so many "handiworks" that there is no room for more. Phyllis taught in France, preparing classes of soldiers to take a GED test. Returning stateside, she ran a branch library in Erie, PA, before starting a family and becoming a homemaker.

Making Life Master was #1 on my Bucket List! But.....no one makes it alone.....it is a partnership achievement! I thank all my wonderful partners!!

THE ADVENTURES OF DUKE AND CAROLINE

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

The RGG's.....Expert players who gave and expected the best you had to offer at the table

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.

“A LEAD IS A LEAD”

Duke and Carolina had taken a month away from bridge to care for Duke's ailing Aunt Prim in Great Britain. She was doing much better, so our intrepid duo were back at home and itching to get back to the tables. It just so happened that the day after they landed at RDU, there was a Unit Game at the TBC. Even Duke was eager to resume their bridge playing.

“Have you filled out your convention card YET?” Caroline queried Duke.

“Yes, Dear,” was the sweet response from Duke, since he had been notoriously lax in performing that task.

“You remember that we have agreed to try MUD leads from 3 small, and we are going to give 1430 Keycard a whirl.”

“Yes, Dear,” came the response, even as Duke was trying to find an eraser to correct his mistakes.

The afternoon came quickly enough, and there was a large turnout. Duke and Caroline got off to a great start, and half way through the game both of them knew that they were having a big score. That is when ethics reared its ugly head.

The opponents, who were newcomers and unknown to Duke and Caroline, had the following auction...Unknown East 1 Heart, Duke Pass, Unknown West 1 Spade, Caroline Pass, UE 3 Diamonds, Duke held KQxx of Diamonds, but was fearful of doubling since these were his only high cards. He passed, and UW bid 3 NT. The bidding

went Pass, Pass and Duke saw his chance.

He asked UW what was the meaning of 3 Diamonds. UW offered that it was a natural jump shift, forcing to game. Duke had high hopes that Caroline would pick up on his question and would lead a Diamond.

Caroline led a Club. Her Diamond holding was JT9x, and she probably would have led that until Duke asked his ill-timed question. Then she felt as if she was ethically bound to NOT lead a Diamond. The opponents made 5 NT with a Club lead and would have made only 3 NT with a Diamond lead.

The game proceeded uneventfully for the remainder of the boards, and Duke and Caroline finished 2nd Overall. A truly worthy accomplishment! As their friends were congratulating them, Duke noticed that if Caroline had led a Diamond on the board in question, they would have won. He asked her why she had not risen to the task.

“Duke, you moron,” Caroline yelled. “If I win, I want to say that I earned it and not because of some cheap trick of yours. The rules are very plain in regards to opening leads. If the opening leader needs a bid explained, then they are 100% correct in asking. They then lead face down. At that point in time, their partner can ask all the questions that they like. The only thing an early, inappropriate question could do is call attention to a suit that the leader's partner wants led. That would make it very hard for the opening leader to be objective.

“You also have a very bad habit of saying “No questions” before I have selected my lead. The proper sequence of events is for me to lead face down and ask “Any questions?” If you have any questions at that time, you may ask them. Since I have already led, your questions cannot influence my lead. If you have further questions after seeing the dummy, you may ask them at your first turn to play and even later during the play of the hand.

“Duke,” said Caroline, **“I will play the right way and if you can't live with that, you will have to find another partner. If I win or place, it will be because I earned it. Playing ethically makes it all so much better when you do have a great game and know that you did it yourself and did not resort to underhanded behavior.”**

What could Duke say? He apologized and vowed to do things her way or, until he could be more subtle, he thought.

Written by Randy Joyce

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair

During June our membership increased by 1 to bring us just 1 short of our December 2012 record of 561. We gained 5 new ACBL members—**Maggie Johnston** of Chapel Hill, **Steve Kunin** of Ferrington Village, **Teddy Lovejoy** also of Chapel Hill, **Philip Patillo** of Durham, and **Carol Sclove** again of Chapel Hill. I rush to say that Maggie is the third of Eric Larson's grandchildren to join ACBL. Her big brothers Daniel and Kevin joined last summer after attending the bridge camp held at the TBC. Maggie attended this summer and Eric again assisted with the program. Also during June we welcomed transfer members **Mary Jo Dunnebacke** of Cary, **Ruth Ann Heldreth** of Holly Springs both from Unit 119, and **John Schwab** of Chapel Hill who comes from Unit 195 in Western Michigan. We extend a warm welcome to all of you!!! During the same period, we had 1 member transfer out and 6 members go inactive.

In July we had a net loss of 8 to bring us down to a total of 552 thus matching our count at this time last year. We gained 2 new ACBL members—**Lauren Jelic** of Chapel Hill and **Beth Wilkins** of Durham both of whom we're glad to have in our bridge family. 2 members transferred out and 8 went inactive while only 1 was reinstated.

For the first 7 months of 2013, we have had 38 members go inactive and only 9 be reinstated. This is close to what we experienced a year ago and similar to the pattern for the first 3 years before. This is a problem not unique to Unit 191—it is one for ACBL as a whole.

On the bright side 19 of our members advanced in rank:

Junior Master	Ruth Barber	Lucas Michaels
	Beth Wilkins	(yes, a new member)
Club Master	Rita Chapman	Dan Fox
	June Johnson	Mike Schlessinger
Sectional	Nancy Crow	Susan Ingelbinck
Regional	Carole Crotty	Clay Hammer
NABC	John Braun	Betsy Mebane
Life Master	Janet Fantz	Kay Murray
	Andrea Roitman	

Bronze Life Master	Bunny Wheeler	
Silver Life Master	Roz Katz	Jean Mathews

I'm distressed to report the loss of 2 of our treasured members—**Connie McManus** at age 80 on 3 July and **Ellie Ostrinsky** at age 87 on 19 July.

Connie retired as an administrative department head at UNC-CH in 1991 and soon became an eager student and active bridge player. Always gracious at the table, Connie reached the rank of Bronze Life Master and served as Unit 191 President in the late 90's. Declining health forced her to move from her Chapel Hill home to her daughter's in Durham in 2009. She is survived by daughter Teresa, sons Christopher and Patrick, 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Ellie was born in Boston, was valedictorian of her high school class in 1941, and graduated in 1945 from Wilson Teachers College, later part of the University of Washington DC. She and her husband of 49 years Nelson (who died in 1998) lived in Washington and later Maryland, Ellie interrupting her teaching career during the 50's and early 60's to raise her family. Ellie moved to Chapel Hill in 2006 but before that frequently visited her two daughters, one of whom called me often to arrange partnerships for Ellie. I had the pleasure of being one of those partners on several occasions and frequently ran into her at the Hunt Valley Regional. Ellie is survived by daughters Lynn Ann Schwartz of Raleigh and Carol Krucoff of Chapel Hill, 5 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

We have a new Life Master in our midst!! The fourth Tuesday of July, **Phyllis Fuller** gained the final fraction of a master point—not silver, not red, not gold—she already had all of those—to put her over the 300 mark. Needing but 0.47 she and **Robin Marin** had a section top with an almost 63% game to pull in 0.88 and this pair the following week repeated with an almost 60% game for another 0.96. These points were reported to ACBL the first week of August so weren't on my official report for 08/01/2013. Phyllis gives special credit to **Lucy Terrell** who often was her partner when she collected her pigmented points.

Keep an eye on Phyllis's car in the parking lot. I'm tempted to put a speeding ticket on her windshield. My ACBL reports for the listed dates show the following for her: January 2010/new member; July 2012/ Junior Master; September 2012/Club Master; December 2012/ Sectional Master; November 2011/ Regional Master; August 2012/ NABC Master and then Life Master! That was a fast trip handled with skill and determination. Congratulations!!

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney standings below cover the second quarter of calendar year 2013 and show the total ACBL master points recorded for the individuals listed. Each individual is shown for the master point range (not the rank) in which he/she stood as of 01/01/13.

The Ace of Clubs points are those won at the club level only and include those won at clubs within 191 as well as those won at other ACBL sanctioned clubs. The Mini-McKenney points are those won in all ACBL sanctioned events.

Harrison Brooke—Membership Chair

<u>ACE OF CLUBS</u>		<u>MASTER POINT RANGE</u>	<u>MINI-MCKENNEY</u>	
Robert Thorstad	18.61	0-5	Robert Thorstad	35.94
Jody Bartlett	12.34		Zimeng Xie	18.77
Kuangda Lu	8.95		Jody Bartlett	17.47
Richard Cole	23.58	5-20	Richard Cole	23.58
Bette Harrington	10.10		Bette Harrington	10.10
Rita Chapman	9.26		Rita Chapman	9.26
Sherry Wogen	27.52	20-50	Phylliss Woody	29.27
Warren Wogen	27.52		Nancy Crow	29.27
Phylliss Woody	24.96		Sherry/Warren Wogen	28.12
Jim Wells	24.05	50-100	Jim Wells	27.20
Carole Crotty	21.80		Don Hierman	26.86
Don Hierman	20.07		Carole Crotty	26.48
Melanie Riva	80.45	100-200	Melanie Riva	120.39
Betsy Mebane	29.22		Paul Smith	66.45
Janet Hitti	22.96		Bon Smith	65.15
Skip Riva	78.56	200-300	Skip Riva	118.94
Andrea Roitman	66.99		Andrea Roitman	87.88
Dave Streifford	44.96		Dave Streifford	67.84
Phil Draper	65.43	300-500	Phil Draper	70.85
Jackie Marks	40.32		Dorothea Wilson	61.22
Anne Boyd	38.92		Anne Boyd	59.75
Dave Schreiber	57.54	500-1,000	Dave Schreiber	127.45
Valerie Roberts	45.67		Jean Mathews	88.45
Paul Williams	37.90		Harry Mathews	85.90
Ken Dye	67.75	1,000-2,500	Ken Dye	118.00
Jim Cunningham	65.19		Jack Whetstone	103.45
Jim Bean	60.74		Kathy Newman	96.87
Howard Su	94.52	2,500-5,000	Tammy Moll	124.96
Mort Stromburg	87.47		Mary Vickers	120.04
Jim Hansell	56.96		Jim Hansell	114.10
Irene Adams	78.51	5,000-7,500	Josef Blass	361.50
Sandy McCay	45.47		Sandy McCay	167.79
Wayne Stuart	28.55		Wayne Stuart	153.39
Kay Joyce	72.13	10,000+	Kay Joyce	519.32
Randy Joyce	38.61		Randy Joyce	479.32
Chris Moll	16.42		Chris Moll	267.39

R. Joyce Finds a Favorite Hand

As a testament to the phrase, "Where there is a will, there is a way," I will share with you a hand that I played at the San Antonio Nationals many years ago. I was playing in the GN Pairs with one of my favorite partners, Bill Wisdom.

As dealer, neither vulnerable, I picked up KT84, A43, KQ87, K7 and opened 1 NT. My LHO overcalled 2 natural diamonds, and partner bid 3 Stayman diamonds. I bid 3 spades which he boosted to game. LHO led the Heart 8 and pard proclaimed that he had pushed a smidge in the bidding. "Oh boy, thought I, as I looked at my mini with wasted diamond cards.

S—J975
H—Q9652
D -
C—QJ84

S—KT84
H—A43
D—KQ84
C—K7

The heart 89 went to the 9, T, and Ace. How do you proceed? First, let me say that there is no legitimate way to make this. I felt that we were in a terrible contract (well, duh) so I threw the normal rules of play out the window and decided to play around in hopes of a favorable lie of the cards, or better yet, a favorable lie of the opponents.

I ruffed a diamond at trick two and received the 9 on my right. Next, I led a club to the king hoping to set up a club for a heart discard. The club king held, so I returned one, losing to the ace. So far, so bad. RHO cashed the heart king, and LHO pitched his last club. A heart lead would obviously doom the hand, but RHO gunned a club at me. I trumped with the spade ten, as LHO pitched a diamond. Now came the diamond king covered by the ace and ruffed with the spade 5, as RHO completed her echo. So far, so bad.

When I led the spade jack, RHO covered with the queen, I with the king, and LHO completed the wish trick with the ace. LHO now led the diamond Jack, which I ruffed with the spade 9 in the dummy, as RHO pitched her last club. The position with 4 cards remaining will now show that correct defense by RHO will net a two trick set. This is when the indomitable spirit takes over and seizes defeat from the jaws of victory!

S -
H—Q65
D -
C—Q

S—3
H -
D—T97
C -

S—62
H—J8
D -
C -

S—84
H—4
D—Q
C -

Try the variations yourself, and you will see that any rational play by RHO will result in a two trick set. However, RHO was not to be denied. When I led the club queen, she ruffed with the spade 6. I over-ruffed with the spade 8. I could now pull the 3 and 2 of trumps with my Tall 4 spot, and my two red ladies took the last two tricks.

I tell my classes to always watch the spots, and this hand is always a shining beacon in the back of my mind.

Submitted by Randy Joyce

JULY TOURNAMENT

"Thanks for a great tournament!"

"You guys in Durham always show us a great time."

"When did you say your next event is?"

These are just three of the enthusiastic comments we heard as bridge players from North Carolina and from as far away as Florida and New Jersey were leaving the Triangle Bridge Center on Sunday, July 14th. Our Unit's summer sectional had ended and a record 56 teams had just completed an exciting day of Swiss team competition.

To say the sectional was a great success might be a serious understatement. A total of 357 tables were in play in 7 events (the Sunday Swiss counts as two events), an increase of 29 tables over last year. The weekend featured a youth game on Saturday morning that attracted 4.5 tables of youngsters who displayed great enthusiasm for the game we all love. In addition, a Charity Game on Saturday afternoon raised \$200 for the ACBL Junior Fund while providing an opportunity to earn bonus silver points for the participants at the 50 tables that were in play.

Of course, a tournament like this one cannot be successful without the efforts of a host of people and without the participation of so many of our unit's members. While it is impossible to list the names of everyone who made the Sectional possible, there are some individuals whose contribution needs to be highlighted. Foremost here is **Gale Meyer**. Gale was the Hospitality Chairperson, a title that doesn't begin to describe the amount of effort and dedication required. She worked tirelessly negotiating with caterers, purchasing food and supplies and organizing the kitchen. Gale would be the first to give credit to the many individuals who assisted her, including **Holly Davis, Linda Harris, Barbara Martin, Philip Erlenbach, Sally Foushee, and Linda Hansell**. She also would insist on expressing her appreciation to the many others who helped in the kitchen and contributed food and snacks as well as those who donated money to purchase drinks and supplies.

Mary Vickers and **Carol Schachner** did a great job of providing partners and **Diane Saulsberry** and **Linda**

Harris excelled in their roles as caddies for the Swiss event. Special thanks go out to **Darleen and Jay** who not only provided us with an outstanding venue but also doubled as tournament directors along with **John Torrey**.

Leonard Beeghley and I want to express our appreciation to everyone who participated. You truly are the ones who are responsible for another successful tournament.

Paul Morissette

Congratulations to **B. Wayne Stuart** (30.75 points) who was the winner of the Germino award—the unit player who had the highest percentage playing with at least two different partners. Other unit winners were **Kay and Randy Joyce** (29.07 points), **Mary Vickers** (17.22 points) and **Stephen Barrett** (15.93 points).

ELLIE

We are all saddened by the loss of a fellow bridge player and for me, a partner. John Torrey wrote this brief tribute:

"Our community has lost a vital member—and each of us lost a friend—with the death last month of Ellie Ostrinsky. This was a sad passing, because Ellie was in no way done with living. Her age was advanced, but she was engaged with life. She played our game with skill, enthusiasm, and an appreciation for the humor in both success and its opposite."

We each will miss you—as a friend, partner or opponent.

SEPTEMBER ALERT

The deadline for the September Alert will be September 20. Please submit your articles no later than the 20th, earlier if possible.

Barbara Martin, Editor