

Unit 191 Bright Leaf Alert

Official Publication of Unit 191

December 2013

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

The three outgoing board members had an unusual circumstance—they were all appointed to the board.

Phil Erlenbach and **Harrison Brooke** were appointed to the Unit's Board 14 months ago during a tumultuous period in meeting protocol. Their prospective has led to a calming of the proceedings and improved communication among Board members. **Carol Schachner** was appointed as a replacement at a later time.

Harrison had previously served on the Board in numerous capacities and had been involved in a search for a new playing site at the time that Bob Boggs was considering selling his facility. There was never anything that Harrison wouldn't do to assist in the growth of our Unit.

Phil had also been on the Board at an earlier time and served as President. Last year when he was asked to accept the challenge of leading the group again, he readily accepted. Through his leadership, the Unit is now moving forward in a positive manner.

Another member, Carol Schachner, briefly served at the Unit level in the completion of an inventory of the Unit's possessions and directed hospitality for the FLM tournament. Carol also serves on the local level by being instrumental in the supervision of the Ferrington invitational bridge games.

The unit thanks Carol, Harrison, and Phil for their contributions to the Board and for making Unit 191 a great place to play bridge!

Written by Pat Bodoh



GALA WRAP UP

The 2013 Holiday and Annual Meeting was a tremendous success. This happened in great part because of the overwhelming support of the event by our Unit members and their guests. The importance of their attendance and enthusiastic participation in the activities cannot be overstated. We are truly grateful. Not even the cold, drizzly day could dampen our spirits! The beautiful facilities of the Rizzo Center were at their holiday best. We thought the chef outdid himself providing many tasty dishes and killer desserts. The staff again seemed to anticipate and accommodate any possible need. They were anywhere and everywhere to ensure a great event—a heated van, a golf cart, umbrellas at every door.....

A big thank you to all the directors who reminded our members to sign up, handled registration, funds, even absentee ballots! Hats off to **Darleen Bates** and **John Torrey**, who graciously handled all last minute issues with grace, diplomacy and humor. We were privileged to have our all-star caddy, **Drew**, return for his third year! Thank you Drew.

We had 222 folks registered this year and 52 tables playing on Sunday. And the winners? 199ers: **Ingrid Parish/Jim Wells**, **Steve/Sydney Kunan**, and **Linda Baugh/Barbara Hulka**. Open: **Jim/Linda Hansell**, **Erlinda Wehrmann/Xiyuan Ge**, and **Eric Larson/ Ray McEntee**. Well done y'all! Also kudos to our nominating committee for coming up with such a stellar slate of candidates as well as organizing the balloting and election. Our new Board members are **Ed Fuller**, **Katie Wilson**, and **Phylliss Woody** who will be joined by returning Board member, **Jim Bean**—Congratulations!

Please add Sunday, December 7, 2014 to your calendar for the Holiday Gala!!

Written by Doris Elkin and Robin Marin

A huge thank you to **Doris and Robin**—co-chairpersons for the holiday gala. They organized the event, tended to every possible detail and handled all situations with a smile. As noted above, arrangements were even made for the 2014 gala!!! Well done ladies!!

HOLIDAY GALA MEMORIES



Kay Joyce and Carole Stromberg



Outgoing President Phil Erlenbach waits as outgoing Membership Chairman Harrison Brooke gives his report



Michael Sears and Melanie Riva



Buffet line at the Dubose House



Mary Ellen Pasquale, Betsy Schoof and Diane Bastian await the start of the bridge game



The Dubose House was beautifully decorated for the holidays



Mort and Carole Stromberg chat with Ken Dye and Betsy Mebane at the Gala



Darleen Bates, Director, shares a laugh with Drew, Chief caddy and grandson of John Torrey



A delicious buffet was enjoyed by 220 Unit 191 members



Joyce Jenzano (top) and Jackie Marks organized and oversaw the election of board candidates



Harold and Laverne Burch discuss their convention card before the bridge game begins



Peter Adler, Andrea Roitman and Jack Whetstone wait for the meeting to begin



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair

Last month I boasted that October activity brought us back to the membership record of 561 we first achieved in December of 2012 and now I must report a November drop of 7 due to the fact that 11 of our Future Life Masters were put on inactive status. Hopefully at least some of those will be reinstated during December and get us back on track.

We gained one new ACBL member—**Ben Kompa** of Chapel Hill and five transfers in, all now residing in Chapel Hill—**Marlene and Jack Heslip** from Unit 110, **Patricia (Pat) Hunter** from Unit 114 (Georgia State), **Jacqueline Salmon** from Unit 119, and **Mason Page Thomas III** from Unit 153 (Charlotte). We bid a warm welcome to these players and look forward to having them as part of our bridge family.

Advancing in rank during November were 15 of our members (a bit over twice the number for October) and we're pleased to congratulate:

Junior Master	Linda Brezin Linda Karp	Catherine Fay Gail King
Sectional Master	Jody Bartlett Cathy Somer Sherry Wogen Lida Wolff	Betsy Donovan Yvonne Taylor Warren Wogen
Regional Master	Phylliss Woody	
Life Master	Kwong Chung	
Bronze Life Master	Anne Boyd	
Gold Life Master	Henry Meguid	

Kwong Chung, a resident of Cary, transferred to Unit 191 in February of 2011. He is the 15th of our players to become a Life Master this year. There must be something in the water—last year there were 7, in 2011 there were 5, and 8 in 2010. We're very proud of the achievements of all the above!!

GOOD NEWS FROM THE WEDNESDAY AM GAME

Submitted by Mary Jo Doherty

The good news is the Durham Bridge Club, aka the Wednesday morning 9:30 game at TBC, will continue to keep fees at \$6 for regular games. Special games will remain at \$7.

Wednesday morning is an ideal setting for mentor/mentee partners to play together. The game is friendly and talent levels vary considerably. A \$5 coupon is awarded to the mentor who comes in first. And.....even better, there is good food.

A number of the Wednesday morning players are staying over for the afternoon game. Why not make a day of it! It will keep you sharpened up for tournament play. You can enjoy John Torrey's famous egg salad sandwiches and chocolate chip cookies between sessions. What could be more perfect!

Happily, there is no bad news.

Your Durham Bridge Club Bridge Friends

SENIOR CENTER

In each of the remaining Fridays in December, we will be having special games for extra points. Friday, December 20 will be a Unit Championship game. Friday, December 27, will be a Charity game also for more master points if you do well., All for the same old \$6.00 game fee.

On Friday, December 20, we will be having our annual Holiday celebration. There will be lots of extra food so go a little easy on your lunch before the game. If you have a favorite recipe that you also would like to share, then please do.

Hope to see you at least one or two times before 2014.

Paul and Ruth Ann

Maggie Lindquist has announced the dates for the **2014 Youth Bridge Camp:**

June 16-20—Beginners

June 23-27—Intermediate and Advanced
Watch for more details in the January Alert.

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

Laggardly Larry...The slowest player at the club

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.

WHAT, ME GLOAT?

“Oh Gawd!” Caroline said to herself, “as if this game isn’t bad enough already and here comes ‘Helpful’ Hilda.”

Caroline had enlisted Buzz to play while Duke was following the Blue Devils football team at the ACC Championship Game. The bridge game was not going as she had hoped. She had failed to guess two queens which caused her to go set in ambitious game contracts. Then she had become a little unnerved and had revoked on the last round. AND Hilda was coming to her table!

Hilda was an innocuous LOL who never failed to guess a Queen doubleton or a King singleton when they were off-side. Her correct guesses of course came in the post mortem when all the cards were on the table. Hilda never seemed to have more than a 47% score, but her analysis was always impeccable. If her opponents had failed to bid a 22 point 3NT which just happened to make, Hilda always cheered her partner with the ringing tones of “That is a good board for us.”

Continued....

If Hilda and her partner would not stop bidding and saved not once, but yet a second time after their opponents had taken the push, she always buoyed her partner with the dulcet tones of, "Well that's a good save, Partner."

On the first board against Buzz and Caroline, Hilda had quite a problem. Her partner had opened 3 Clubs, and Buzz had bid 3 Spades. Hilda held:

S—KJxx
H—Axx
D—Axxx
C—xx

Hilda knew that she had 4 sure tricks and Buzz was vulnerable. Surely her partner would hold 1 trick for her. Hilda doubled and led her doubleton club. Imagine how delighted Hilda's partner must have been to hold:

S
H—xxx
D—xxx
C—AKQxxxx

Buzz followed to the first club, ruffed the second, and proceeded to lead a middle spade toward Caroline's Qxx in the dummy. Hilda ducked, Buzz ducked, and Hilda's partner showed out. Buzz repeated the finesse and was quickly entering +730 on his side of the ledger. After years of abuse, Buzz could not resist saying, "They were cold for 3 NT, Partner."

Hilda chided her partner for not running to 4 Clubs since she didn't hold any spades.

The second board was the kind only duplicate players appreciate. Hilda had a hand that she knew would almost certainly make 6 Clubs, but with the right little bit out of partner she could make 6 NT. With the result of the first board firmly in the front of her mind, Hilda chose 6NT. It appeared that she had guessed well when the dummy appeared with an 8 card Diamond suit and she had only figured on 7.

Dummy once again held a Spade void, which made the Diamond slam impregnable. Since Hilda's Spade holding was Kxx opposite the void, she had a stopper. Hilda was all set to receive her richly deserved kudos for putting the contract into NT, when something happened on the way to the bank. Her partner's solid suit of AKQxxxx opposite her singleton DID NOT RUN. Buzz held the missing J10xx of Diamonds. This unfortunate turn of events led to down 2 and a bottom board rather than an average plus.

Caroline and Buzz were very quiet, because they realized that it wasn't a very classy thing Buzz had said on the first board. They did not have the stomach to gloat anymore. Hilda was disconsolate that anything this dastardly could happen to her.

"It's the crazy computer dealt hands," was Hilda's salvo. "Can you believe that the Diamonds were 4-0?"

Hilda had built her reputation on gloating at the opponents when things went badly for them and did not know how to change gears and accept that sometimes the best laid plans for any partnership went awry.

The next time your opponents run into some foul luck or an unlikely lie of the cards, don't be in a hurry to point out that they have a poor result. Even if you do not mean a comment as criticism, no one wants to hear that they could have had a better result if they had chosen to do something differently.

Shed a little ray of sunshine and maybe your cards will behave in a more civilized manner the next time you need a little luck. Gloating is for losers. Don't ever fall into that trap....you just don't know when it will come back to haunt you.

Written by Randy Joyce and Sandy McCay



The Bridge Academy



Have fun, Play better

www.bridgeacademync.com

IMPROVE YOUR GAME JOIN WEDNESDAY'S PLAY, DISCUSS AND LEARN (PDL) DUPLICATE GAMES

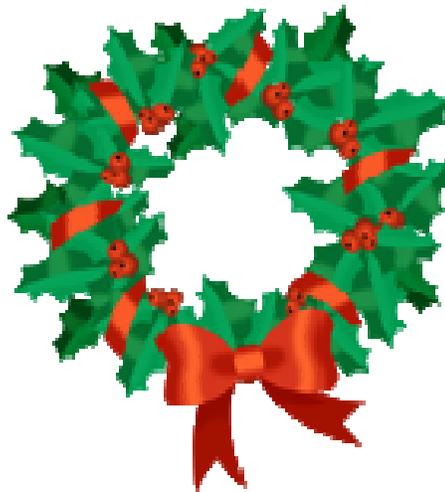
This ACBL sanctioned game is designed to help you improve your game and partnership agreements. Participants play the same boards at the same time, then after each round, discuss interesting boards from a bidding, play and defense perspective. This hands-on playing and learning is an invaluable format to enjoy duplicate in a fun and relaxed environment suitable for advancing beginners and intermediate players. The game starts at 1 pm at The Dick Levin JCC (1937 West Cornwallis Road, Durham, NC 27705), for more information contact Henry at: henry@bridgeacademync.com

YEAR END REFLECTIONS

If you were unable to attend the Holiday Gala, you missed a wonderful event. You also missed the opportunity to hear about the "state of our unit". All news regarding the status of Unit 191 is very good—membership continues to hold at a high number and the finances are sound. Sadly, 8 members passed away in 2013.

Our unit continues to thrive because of many reasons.

- Many opportunities for games
- Excellent directors
- Fine teachers
- A good unit board who manages to keep tabs on all happenings plus continually working to promote and make bridge even better for all of us
- **HOWEVER, THE MAIN REASON** for our unit being vibrant and energetic is because of the many, many volunteers. Thank you for contributing—whether it be time, food, being a chairperson, clean-up, kitchen help— your efforts are great appreciated. Let's make 2014 even better!



THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

THE ALERT STAFF

Editor—Barbara Martin
Regular Contributors—Randy Joyce,
Sandy McCay, Liz McGuffey, Harrison
Brooke - and all others who have submitted articles for the Alert

