

# UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

MARCH 2015

March 4th, 2015

## MARCH FORTH!

.....and that is exactly what the unit is doing! There are going to be many opportunities for bridge players—both to play, volunteer, and participate—with the following events on the docket.

While not set in stone, please keep these events in mind when their dates are firmly set. Two of our clubs will hopefully be offering 1,2 or 3 day 0-199 club sectional tournaments which will provide an opportunity for bridge players to win silver points and give participants the chance to compete against their peer group. The Bridge Academy will host one of these tournaments the last weekend in May.

Also, this year our clubs have proposed up to two LEARN BRIDGE IN A DAY events so if you have friends or neighbors who would like to learn this wonderful game and meet new friends, this is a great opportunity. The first LBIAD is scheduled for April 26 with a follow up session on May 2, and will be hosted by **Jeff Boak**. And speaking of learning bridge, don't forget to sign up your grandkids or kids in your neighborhood for our bridge camp beginning June 15th. This is a great way to get your grandkids broken into the game without you having to explain what trumps are or what a finesse is. And then of course when you need a 4th, presto!

**Jackie Marks and Dave Streifford** will be hosting our July tournament starting on the 16th so be sure to mark it on your calendars.

Also, reserve March 18 for a double session event hosted by the Durham Bridge Club/ Tarheel Bridge Club, and March 26 for a party at the TBC to honor the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners.

Our Unit and our clubs continue to press ahead with events and activities that cater to all levels of players and give us more opportunities to learn and play this wonderful game of bridge.

*Jim Bean, Unit President*

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those people who supported our tournament through food and cash donations, volunteering to help in the kitchen and the playing area, or just deciding to play! Much appreciation to everyone!

Of course, I want to especially thank our March Sectional team beginning with my co-chair **Andrea Roitman**, who so graciously volunteered to assist me; our hosts and director, **Jay and Darleen Bates**, a big thanks; our fine partnership chairs, the ever competent **Kay Gruninger and Katie Wilson**; and to our caddies, **Linda Harris and Diane Saulsberry** (the prettiest caddies this side of Raleigh). Without a doubt the most arduous chore of any tournament is hospitality and I can't thank enough our chairperson, **Melanie Riva**, who undertook her responsibility with determination to make her own imprint and judicious decisions. You rock girl! Along with her supporting cast: **Nancy Crow, Rita Musante** and returning helper **Rebecca Herter**, they did a fine job and kudos to you all!

I hope we have lived up to your expectations and we will forever be grateful for any feedback you may have. You may either talk or email me directly or talk to any of our team.

*Jim Bean, Tournament Chair*

P.S. A special thank you to Jim, who now holds the record for having chaired or co-chaired 7 tournaments! Well done! The unit hopes it isn't your last!



## 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

**"Helpful Hilda"**..... The club's expert on gentle gloating

**Gracie the Gatherer**.....The BEST HCP Holder in the club

**Angie Antenna**....Always had her eyes and ears on alert

**Astonishing Abe**... Tricky!!! Bidder

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.



# DUKE AND CAROLINE

*Written by Randy Joyce*



Due to bad scheduling, Duke and Caroline had MISSED the recent Raleigh Sectional tournament. They heard nothing but rave reviews about everything from the food and hospitality to the ability to compete against their peers and win lots of master points. They both vowed to attend and play as much as possible in the soon to be held Durham tournament. Both were playing with several different partners, and Caroline wanted to know the best way to ensure that misunderstandings didn't occur at the table. She sought the advice of Mr. RGG.

"Caroline," he said, "misunderstandings are bound to occur in all partnerships. The best thing that you and Duke can do is to streamline your agreements so that you play mostly basic conventions and treatments with all your partners. I know that it is not possible to agree on everything with every partner, but you can save yourself a lot of bad results if you go over a little check list before the start of each session with each new partner. I will hit the high spots for you, and you can fill in the rest."

- 1. Bergen Raises are very popular in this area. Check to see whether each different partner is playing them with you and check to see if they have any different nuances with which you are not familiar. Some people play them by passed hands; some do not. What about over doubles? The heat of battle is not the place to decide issues like these.**
- 2. If not Bergen, are your jumps weak or strong? If they answer weak, say, 'how good can they be?' I see too many people making weak jumps with hands that are intermediate value, and games are missed. Conversely, I see players expecting more than their partner's bid shows, and they go set when they investigate possible games.**
- 3. Of course, everyone likes to play hands, but there is a necessity to discuss our opening leads. Honor leads are not too difficult, but occasional partnerships seldom talk about what you lead from 3 small and 4 small. Does partner play attitude when you lead an honor or give count? Do the contract and the holding on the dummy dictate what he would do? (continued...)**

4. **Do we play regular Stayman or garbage? Do we know the difference? Do we play Puppet Stayman? When does it apply?**
5. **I believe that most people have swung over to Key Card Blackwood. How do we ask for and show Kings after we have determined how many Key Cards that we hold? Do we have any way to ask for the Q of trumps?**
6. **What, if any, defense do we play over our opponents' 1NT? Are we on the same page as to what partner will expect in terms of HCPs and distribution if we do act over 1NT?**
7. **How high do we play negative doubles? What will partner expect in terms of HCPs? What will partner expect in terms of suit length and HCPs if we bid a new suit over an overcall? Will we be obligated to bid again if partner just makes a minimum bid?**
8. **Tend to discuss simple auctions that may have vastly different meanings to you and your partner.**
9. **1 minor—double—1 Major is forcing with some and can and should be passed with others.**

“Try to think of things that cause you problems with your regular partners, and, by all means, talk about them with an occasional partner. There are bound to be some arcane situations that arise. Even expert and practice partnerships cannot possibly discuss everything that might happen at the table. Don't worry about and/or dwell on the obscure. As an old partner of mine once said, ‘Try to get a firm grasp of the meat and potatoes, and let others fret about the Rutabagas.’ “

“Wow!” said Caroline. “You make it sound so simple. I feel like I could add 10% to my scores just by knowing what I am doing.”

“It will help your scores,” said Mr. RGG, “but it won't make people come to your table and cease to play. You have to apply your skills as declarer and defender to make your scores really start to climb. Knowing what you are doing only helps you to be more comfortable in the bidding and frees your mind to dwell on what to do once the cards are on the table. Good Luck in the tournament! I know that a lot of hard work is going into making it a pleasurable experience for you and Duke and the others that attend.

*P.S. Apologies to Randy—this article was supposed to appear before the Carolina Dreamin' Tournament. However, it's good advice for other upcoming tournaments.*

## **PARTNERSHIP DESK FROM THE ACBL**

A new benefit recently introduced by the ACBL is Partnership Desk, which connects players for tournament, club, and online play.

From MyACBL, players can post requests and search for partners by club location or tournament. Profiles already contain the member's rank and number of masterpoints with options to add a profile photo and preferred systems.

Tournaments will especially benefit when both players and partnership chairs use the ACBL's Partnership Desk. This is an effective way to be able to attend a tournament without a partner and be assured that when you get there, you have a compatible partner.

This is a new program and is in the process of being established. If you have questions, please e-mail your concerns to **[partnership@acbl.org](mailto:partnership@acbl.org)**.

# UNIT HAPPENINGS

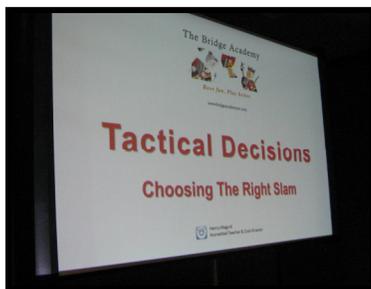
In the month of February, there were several special events that occurred in our unit. Each provided our members an opportunity to play bridge, enjoy good food, and meet with friends to all play the game we love.

## FEBRUARY 2

The Bridge Academy moved to a new location—The Sheraton on Europa Drive in Chapel Hill, having outgrown their the space at the JCC.



Henry Meguid, owner and director of The Bridge Academy, presents his weekly lesson on:



Over 100 bridge players—26 1/2 tables showed up to participate in the first game held at the Sheraton. There is also an open game on Wednesday at 1:00.

**Best wishes to The Bridge Academy  
at its new location!**

## FEBRUARY 5

Jay and Darleen had their fifth birthday celebration at the TBC. The party began at the 1:00 game with a delicious lunch provided by the TBC and 38 1/2 tables of bridge players.....

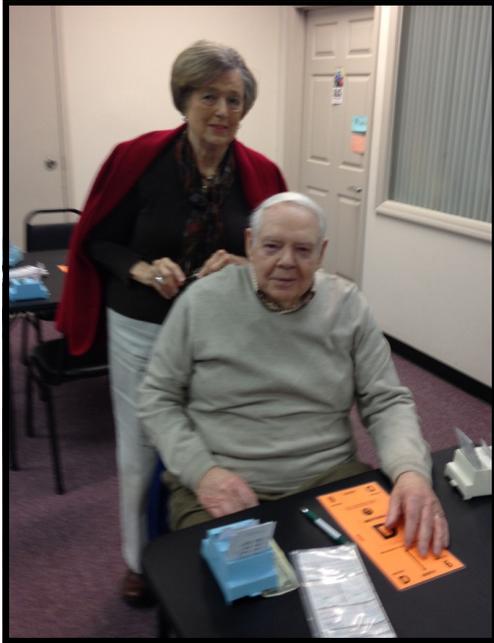


**2**  
.....and continued in the evening with 15 tables.

**Congratulations Jay and Darleen!**

## FEBRUARY 11

The Durham Bridge Club had a special Valentine's celebration with lots of great food and good bridge. There was a drawing for a free play for the event—won by Jim Bean.



Couples **Marlene and Jack Heslip** (above) and **Karen and Larry Calhoun** (below) enjoyed the Valentine celebration. Both pairs were in the winner's circle!!



## FEBRUARY 13

**Paul and Ruth Ann Schwenke** had a TRIFECTA celebration on Feb. 13th!

- **The fifth year anniversary of their game at the Seymour Senior Center**
- **Valentine's Day Eve**
- **Friday, the 13th**

18 tables of bridge players enjoyed bridge and delicious Valentine treats.

**Congratulations to Paul and Ruth Ann!**  
**Thanks for managing the Friday afternoon game and for all your efforts to make bridge better in our unit!!**



## **MENTOR/MENTEE GAME**

The Mentor/Mentee game for February was held at the TBC on February 10. Nine and one-half tables participated in the event. Overall winners were:

- 1st—Liz McGuffey/Dorothy McElwee
- 2nd—Ed Fuller/Paula Head
- 3rd—Phil Draper/David Crow
- 4th—Chris Moll/Linda Harris
- 5th—Paul Kobrin/John Pinkerton

Thanks to **Sharon Crane** and **Linda Harris**, Mentor/Mentee coordinators for this term, for organizing the game. Thanks also to **Jay and Darleen** who directed not only the mentor/mentee game, but also the regular 499er session plus the newcomer game monitored by **Valerie Roberts**.

**THE ALERT IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AND IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS.**

**BARBARA MARTIN, EDITOR**

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

**RANDY JOYCE  
LIZ MCGUFFEY  
DAVE STREIFFORD**



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**MARCH 18**

### **DOUBLE SESSION EVENT**

**HOSTED BY THE DURHAM BRIDGE CLUB AND COORDINATED BY JEFF BOAK  
WATCH YOUR UNIT E-MAIL FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION**

**MARCH 26**

**HELP THE UNIT HONOR ALL THE MINI-MCKENNEY AND ACE OF CLUBS WINNERS AT A 1:00 GAME AT THE TBC. BE THERE AT 12:30 TO ENJOY THE CEREMONY, EAT SOME CAKE, AND THEN PLAY GOOD BRIDGE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET LOTS OF EXTRA POINTS.**

**MAY 2**

**PLAN TO HAVE BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S—501 E. SIX FORKS ROAD IN RALEIGH TO SUPPORT RALEIGH JUNIOR BRIDGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, E-MAIL:  
[raleighjuniorbridge@gmail.com](mailto:raleighjuniorbridge@gmail.com)**

# I CLAIM THE REST??

In the article about bridge etiquette found in this issue, there was a statement of not prolonging play when it was obvious that a claim could be made. I asked **John Torrey** for clarification regarding that issue.

Ideally, a claim will save time and mental aggravation for all concerned. Among experienced players it can be considered rude to prolong play when you could have claimed. But all too often a claim just creates confusion and aggravation, and extends the time to complete play of the hand. Assuming we all want the first result and not the second, what can we do to make this more likely?

If you are claiming:

- **Do not claim if anything is in doubt.** Your nine-card suit may break 4-0.
- **Make a statement telling the tricks you will take, and their sequence.** If this will take more than two sentences, wait and claim when things are simpler. In a trump contract, mention trumps.

Claims by defenders are rare, for good reason. The claiming statement for a defender should always be the same: "I'm on lead and my hand is good."

If your opponent claims:

- **Listen to the statement and check that it works.** If the claimer makes no statement and things are not obvious you can ask, "How are you going to play it?"
- **If you have a problem, call the director.** You need not discuss it with the claimer, and you probably should not.
- **Do and say nothing until the director arrives.** In particular, do not play or show any cards. As Law 68D says, "No action may be taken pending the Director's arrival."

- **Do not ask the claimer to play it out.** Law 68D again: "After any claim or concession, play ceases."

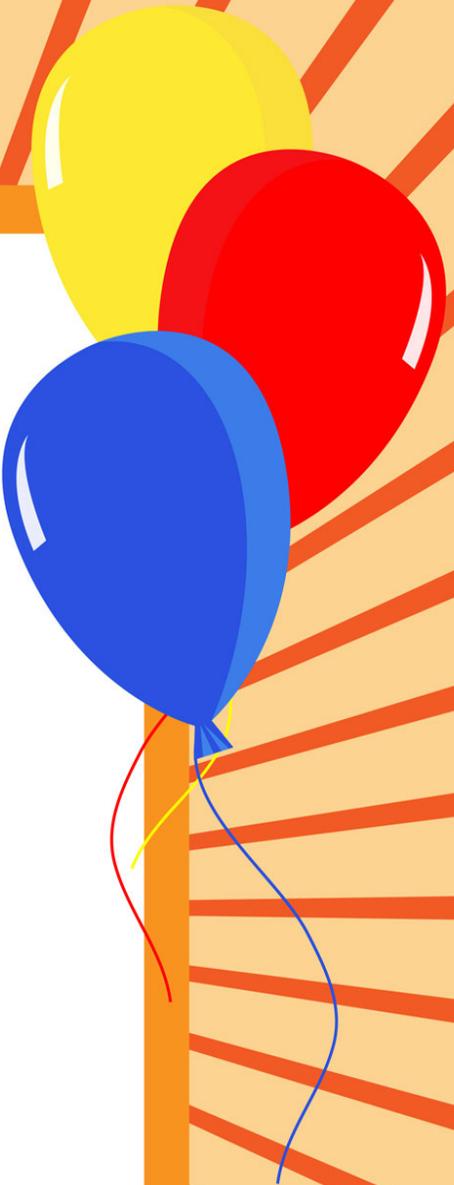
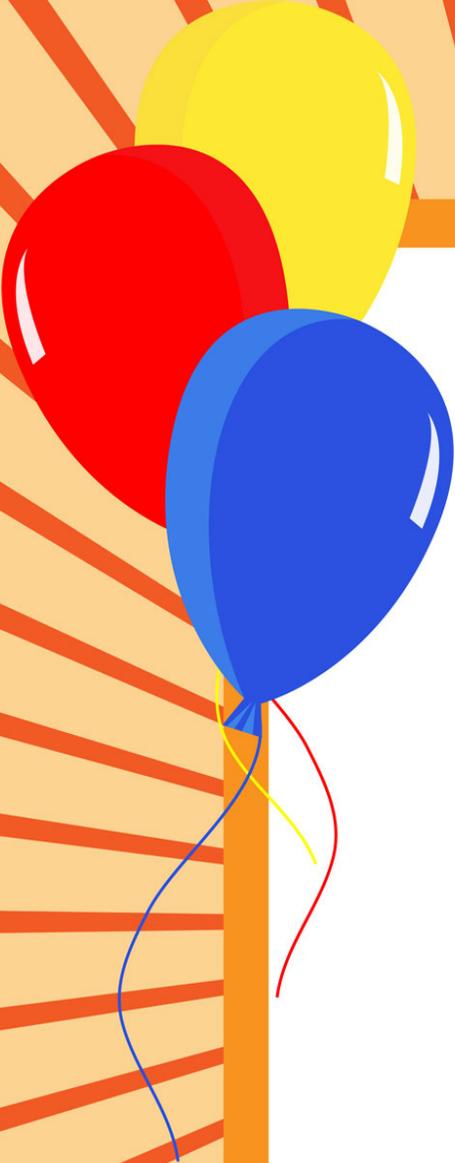
The director "adjudicates the result of the board as equitably as possible for both sides, but any doubtful point as to a claim shall be resolved against the claimer." (Law 70A) Players say that "You can't take a finesse if you have claimed." Actually, if the honor you are missing will drop, the director should *require* you to take that losing finesse.

Good director practice gives two "breaks" to players who make imperfect claims:

- **The claimer will play "good" suits from the top.** If you have the AK2, you do not have to lead the 2.
- **A good claim with an imperfect statement may be upheld.** When declarer has six of the last five tricks and claims seven of them, the director will allow the five sure ones if the loser would be apparent in the play. (Claimer leads dummy's "good" king of clubs, but the defender puts the ace on it. Declarer is allowed to trump and take her tricks in other ways, if the other ways are obvious.)

*Written by John Torrey*

Thanks, John, for the article and clarifying the procedures for making a claim.

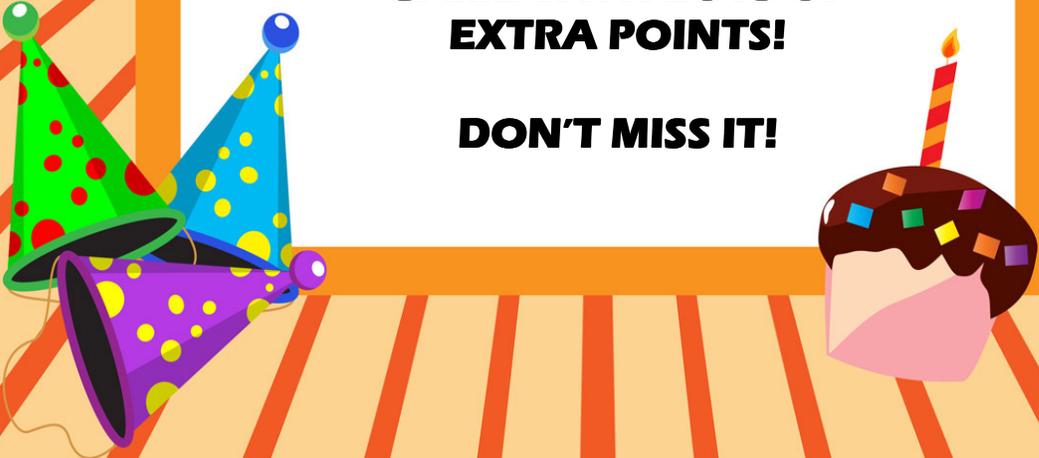


**YOU'RE INVITED  
TO A  
CELEBRATION!**

**THE UNIT WILL BE  
HONORING THE  
MINI-MCKENNEY AND  
ACE OF CLUBS  
WINNERS AT A  
SPECIAL GAME AT  
THE TBC ON  
MARCH 26!**

**PLAN TO ARRIVE  
EARLY FOR A SPECIAL  
AWARDS  
CEREMONY, ENJOY  
SOME CAKE AND  
SNACKS,  
FOLLOWED BY A  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
GAME WITH LOTS OF  
EXTRA POINTS!**

**DON'T MISS IT!**



# ETIQUETTE IN BRIDGE

*Reproduced with permission from ACBL*



It is always nice to sit down at a bridge table and play with friendly people. Etiquette is generally defined as conventional requirements as to social behavior. The popularity and universality of the game of bridge relies heavily upon the players being well-mannered and courteous. This attitude towards each and every player is expected and should be maintained at all times. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We are only humans with emotions and we can not be self-disciplined at all times under all circumstances.

We have all met those rude and obnoxious players in our bridge past. No one has ever escaped that certain look, that certain irony in the voice, that gesture which disturbs us emotionally and mentally. It is possible that we have been guilty of doing the same. Perhaps we let our emotions get the better of us, and we simply became rude and obnoxious. If we catch ourselves being less than polite, then that is the time to exercise self-discipline. Take a deep breath, go get ourselves a cup of coffee, or excuse ourselves and make that trip to the restroom.

Therefore, if we all make that special effort to be courteous to one and all, perhaps the game, the play and the atmosphere can become more enjoyable for one and all.

## The Laws as stated in The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge, Laws 74.A.2 and 74.B:

### Law 74.A.2

#### *A. Etiquette of Word and Action*

**A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.**

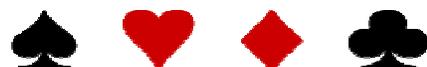
### Law 74.B

#### *B. Etiquette*

**As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from:**

1. Paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. Making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.
3. Detaching a card before it is his turn to play.
4. Prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all the tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
5. Summoning and addressing the Director in a manner discourteous to him or to other contestants.

All bridge players, all participants at the bridge clubs, at national and international tournaments indeed hope, expect, and trust to meet only nice and polite, courteous and friendly people at the bridge table. They should not be disappointed.

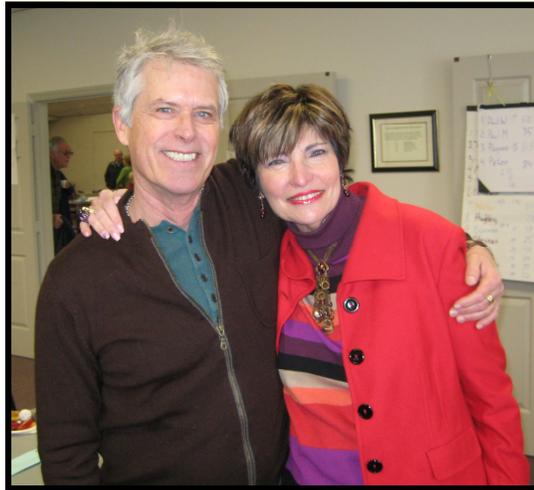
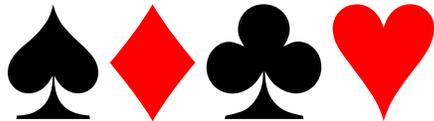




# CAROLINA DREAMIN' 2015

FEBRUARY 26—MARCH 1

Thursday, February 26, saw our area covered with 10-12 inches of snow. The first day of the tournament was “iffy” —however, the show went on —and each session was held—with bridge players totally disregarding the weather, especially for the Thursday night and Friday morning games. Attendance was obviously down, but thanks to the following, the tournament came off in fine style.



**Jim Bean and Andrea Roitman**, co-chairs of the tournament, were in attendance for each session to make sure everything ran smoothly.



**Kay Gruninger** (left) and **Katie Wilson**, partnership chairs, made arrangements for anyone in need of a bridge game for any session during the tournament.



A huge thanks to **Jay and Darleen** for hosting the tournament at the TBC. In spite of very unpleasant weather conditions, they were willing to open the TBC and carry on as planned.



**Melanie Riva**, Hospitality Chair, and her team of **Rita Musante** and **Nancy Crow**, did a fantastic job serving delicious food throughout the tournament. Our Unit 191 tournaments are known for the great food we provide and this tournament did not disappoint. Well done team!



**Melanie, Linda Harris, and Rita** are still smiling after working all day in the kitchen.



**Nancy Crow and Rebecca Herder**, along with **Sally Foushee**, spent Saturday making sure the food was served.



**Matthew Tracy and Catherine Fay** played in the 0-20 special game held on Saturday afternoon. This was the first time a limited game with these strats was held.



The good looking caddy team of **Diane Saulsberry** (left) and **Linda Harris** kept the Swiss team event on Sunday moving smoothly.



For sure, in March 2016, we will be “dreamin’” here in North Carolina that there will be no ice storms, no snow, and nothing but perfect Carolina blue skies when the unit’s popular Carolina Dreamin’ tournament is scheduled. In spite of the miserable conditions, there was a total of well over 200 tables for the tournament. That was quite a nice turnout! Proof that bridge players are hearty individuals and will venture out in all kinds of weather to play the game we all love.

On behalf of the unit, there cannot be enough thanks expressed to those who made sure the “show went on” and persevered regardless of the weather.

**WELL DONE  
CAROLINA DREAMIN’  
TEAM OF 2015!!!!!!**

