

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

OCTOBER 2018

from the president ...

Unit 191's Board needs your help

Attendance at the Bright Leaf Summer Sectional was 21 % lower than in 2017. More than half the attendees (53%) this year were non-unit members. To understand better how the unit can provide opportunities for our members to play and enjoy bridge, we will be sending out a short questionnaire to elucidate the decisions that influenced your attendance – or not – at our tournaments. *Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.*



ACBL
Bright Leaf Unit 191

Kudos to "Pepsi"

It is delightful to see one of our unit's players mentioned in Bobby Wolff's column "*Aces on Bridge*" at aces.bridgeblogging.com. Most recently, Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola was mentioned in the [August 28th](#) and [September 14th](#) columns. The September 14th article was about Pepsi's team playing in the finals of the Yeh Bros team event with a **\$100,000 purse** to the winners. See

<http://aces.bridgeblogging.com/2018/09/28/the-aces-on-bridge-friday-september-14th-2018/>

A word of warning

Recently, Bright Leaf was the subject of a phishing scam. Our treasurer, Suzie, caught the scam. Other units in District 7 have reported similar phishing attempts. If you have concerns about an email purportedly from Bright Leaf Unit 191, do not hesitate to contact me directly.

ACBL Privacy Policy

On the subject of privacy of personal data, a reminder that our directory is provided as a courtesy for our members to be able to contact each other on bridge related matters – arrange games, etc. It is NOT to be used to contact members for other matters – business opportunities, political conversations, etc.

ACBL privacy policy provides the following guidance for when ACBL member's information should not be used:

- Solicitations or offers for personal or private fundraisers, even if bridge-themed;
- Solicitations or offers for personal or private business opportunities, investments or other commercial purposes, even if bridge-themed;
- Personal or private programs or purposes, even if bridge-themed;
- Dissemination of ACBL member's contact information to the public (e.g. a phone directory without prior consent), except publication of club or tournament game results that may include members' name, city, state/province and country

If you would like to have your personal contact information deleted from our directory, please contact **Jane Kiernan** at jik2215@gmail.com or (919) 264-0220.

Play every card well,

Ed Fuller, Unit 191 President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Unit's Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill vacancies on the Unit 191 Board of Directors for terms beginning in 1919. Each term is for a three year period and four of the twelve positions are open each year.

The Unit's By-laws describe the Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors as:

"In addition to the powers herein granted by other provisions hereof, and by the laws of the State of North Carolina, the Unit Board of Directors shall have powers and duties including but not limited to the:

1. Conduct, management, supervision and control of the business of the Unit,
2. Conduct of Unit tournaments,
3. Employment and discharging of employees, and the supervision of their conduct and fixing of their compensation,
4. Overseeing all budgets and funds associated with tournaments and special programs."

The Board has regularly-scheduled monthly meetings and members fulfill responsibilities of offices held and committee assignments as designated for each Director. A review of information under Governance on the Unit's web page can provide additional insight into activities that board members are part of. Certainly, current and previous board members can also be helpful in providing information.

Please consider submitting your name if interested or nominating someone else who you think we be an effective member of the Board. Feel free to submit names with or without comments to any of the Nominating Committee members listed below. I have included email addresses for each of us. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Joyce Jenzano, Chair - joycejenzano@icloud.com
Phylliss Woody - pwoody@unc.edu
Chris Moll - chrismollbridge@gmail.com

Unit 191 Holiday Gala
2018 Annual Meeting, Luncheon
& Unit Championship Game

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
11:30

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL
4700 EMPEROR BLVD RTP

MAKE RESERVATIONS
NOW
UNTIL 12/2

Cost for Lunch and Bridge
Members \$35
Non-members \$50

Make a CHECK payable to
Unit 191
Drop it off at
Triangle Bridge Club or
The Bridge Academy

Include a slip with your partner's name, Indicate Open or 499er game, and if you MUST have a N/S position.

Questions?
E-Mail
Deanna@elarus.com

Some witticisms from Alfred Sheinwold:

"The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it."

"One advantage of bad bidding is that you get to practice in playing atrocious contracts."

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself."



MENTOR-MENTEE GAME

The first mentor-mentee game was held on September 11, at The Bridge Academy. Henry gave an interesting lesson slam bidding and there were hands played and bid by mentees that proved the lesson was effective!

Dixie Hapgood and Joyce Jenzano were the winners in the game.

Thanks to **Nancy Crow and Phylliss Woody** for organizing the program.

The next mentor-mentee game will be held on October 9 at Triangle Bridge Club.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of August 1st, we have 608 members. We have four new members: **Allan Slentz, Michele Smith, Nina Wallace and Barbara Weber.** Please welcome them to our unit.

Several of our members advanced in rank this month. **Travis Meredith** is our new Junior Master. Our new Club Masters are **Stephen Gibson, Gene Mills, and Jesse Muirhead.** **Ann Fisher** is a new Sectional Master. **Judy Laney** is now a Regional Master and **Diana Spock** is an NABC Master. New Advanced NABC Master is **Leslie Blair.** **Kamal Das** has become a Life Master and **John Barnard** is a Bronze Life Master. Our new Silver Life Master is **Anne Boyd.**

Last, but certainly not least **Josef Blass** has attained the level of Grand Live Master!!

Congratulations to all!

Jane Kiernan, Membership Chair



In spite of numerous articles and requests for players to not wear scented perfumes and lotions, some people continue to use these items to excess. Please be mindful that there are people who are allergic to strong scents which result in severe headaches and difficulties in breathing. Let's strive to make the game pleasant for everyone!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UNIT 191'S FALL TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 8-11.

ARRANGE YOUR PARTNERS AND TEAMMATES NOW AND DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN SILVER POINTS.

CHECK THE UNIT'S WEBSITE FOR ALL THE DETAILS.

AN OLDIE REAPPEARS.....

By Randy Joyce

At a recent local game, an opponent picked up an interesting hand:

S- Qx

H- Axxx

D- AKQTxxx

C- ---

His partner opened 1 Heart, and he had multiple choices for his first call. He could bid Jacoby 2NT, splinter with 4 Clubs, or simply bid 2 Diamonds forcing to game. After the hand was over, my opponent asked me what I would bid, and in a knee jerk reaction, I said that I would bid Jacoby 2NT.

I have since changed this position and want to express my thoughts on why. I would bid 2 Diamonds for the following reasons: I need to find out two critical pieces of information. I need to find out how good partner's trumps are AFTER I have confirmed that we have a Spade control. Jacoby uses up too much room. I am one of the foremost advocates of showing partner that I have 4 or more trumps as soon as I can, but I feel that this hand is an exception to the rule.

After 2 Diamonds, partner would bid 2NT and you would bid 3 Hearts. I like to tell my classes that 3 Hearts in this sequence shows a BIG HAND and is looking for more than game. If you just have a minimum 2/1, then you can bid 4 Hearts and let partner know that no extras are coming from your side of the table. Partner will think you only have 3 Hearts, but you will be in charge later, so who cares. Perhaps I should give you partner's hand and see what you would bid:

S- Axx

H- KQJTx

D- xx

C- Kxx

If you said anything but 3 Spades, you and partner are not getting the full bang for your buck out of 2/1. When you and partner have set up a low level game force, you should cue bid any time that your hand has suitable values for a possible slam. Your first cue bid should be an Ace.

Your first cue bid should be an Ace! (Randy is getting senile and has put in the same sentence twice.) No, he put an exclamation point after the second one and knew exactly what he was doing. You will get conflicting information about cue bids. Some say a first round control (ergo a void counts as an Ace. Some say any control K or singleton. Re-read the part about an Ace. DO IT and you will save yourself a lot of heartache. As for subsequent cue bids, they do not have to be Aces.

So you have answered one question. How do you find out about partner's trump honors? If you bid Blackwood and partner answers 2 with or without the Q you will not know whether this is the Spade A and trump K or the Spade A and Club A.

What are we to do? How many of you have ever heard of **Grand Slam Force**? We will refer to this as GSF later in the article.

GSF was very popular before Keycard came into prominence, for the simple reason that it gave you a way to find out about the trump Q. Since the infusion of Keycard in standard bidding, there has not been as much need for GSF. This is a perfect time to use it. For those of you not familiar with the bid, what it asks is, "Do you have 2 of the top 3 trump honors?" It is a very simple question and can have a very simple answer. Either you have them and you bid 7 of your agreed suit or you don't have them and you sign off at 6 of your suit. Isn't that easy? You might ask how we bid GSF. It is always a jump to 5NT when we have an agreed suit. Remember that we have to have an agreed trump suit and it has to be a JUMP to 5NT.

As you see, 7 Hearts is cold. Did anyone bid it? No, No, No! Our opponent got an extremely good board for just bidding 6 and making 7. I write these articles to improve your bidding. In the future, I want you to be able to bid 7 with confidence on this hand. Just don't ever do it against me!



~Beginning Standard American Bridge~

This is the class for the beginning player, the player wanting a review of the basics, and/or the partnership who wants to work together learning strategies in a class setting to prepare for the games they play.

Standard American Bidding based on *ACBL's Bidding in the 21st Century* is offered Friday mornings from 9:30-12:00 beginning October 5, 2018 and is 9 weeks. *

The class is held at Triangle Bridge Club, 5110 Revere Road, Durham, costs \$125, requires a text but not a partner, and offers lots of practical information and plenty of practice.

If you know anyone who wants to learn how to play or wants to learn about basic defense, please pass this information along to those who might be interested.

For more information or to register for this class, contact Valerie Roberts, at vjroberts3@gmail.com



~Introduction to 2 Over 1~

For players wanting to learn or review the basics of the 2 over 1 bidding approach, this class is a great way to begin.

This introduction to two over one game force is a nine week class based on Audrey Grant/Eric Rodwell's *2 over 1 Game Force* text. Students should have a good understanding of Standard American bidding already. We will cover the basics of the 2/1 system. Additional conventions like Drury for example will be included based on student interest.

We will meet Sunday afternoons from 1:30-4:00 beginning October 7, 2018, at Triangle Bridge Club, 5110 Revere Road, Durham. The class costs \$125, requires a text but not a partner, and offers lots of practical information and plenty of practice.

For more information or to register contact Valerie Roberts, at vjroberts3@gmail.com

*in the event of weather or tournament conflicts, any cancelled class will be made up the following week until all 9 classes have been held,



Help TBC Pick up the Tab

Bridge players hate to give up any tricks but we are generally pretty generous in other areas. Here is another opportunity to help.

The Ronald McDonald House of Durham & Wake provides a home away from home for families of critically ill children being treated at local hospitals. The house provides private bedrooms, a well-stocked kitchen, home-cooked meals, laundry, and computer plus play spaces at little or no cost to the families.

The Ronald McDonald House of Durham & Wake is partially funded with money raised by pop tabs collected by volunteers and donated to the House or any American Legion Post in NC. Triangle Bridge Club has a clear 2-liter bottle in the kitchen by the coffee to collect tabs. Please help by putting your tabs in the bottle. Feel free to bring in tabs from home.

Contact Clay Ragan at 919-281-1062 or Clay@RMHDurhamWake.org to learn more about the Pop Tab program and how you can help.



Shown above is **Dave Schreiber** and one of the many beautiful flower arrangements he has created. Dave supplies The Bridge Academy with a fresh arrangement weekly and all the flowers and foliage come from his garden, although I did hear him say once that some of the flowers are grown in his aunt's garden.

Not only does Dave make arrangements for TBA, he can always be counted on to provide the unit with fresh arrangements for our tournaments.

Thanks, Dave, for making our playing areas so beautiful!!!

The Bridge Academy



Have fun, Play better

www.bridgeacademync.com

What's Happening in October!

Come play bridge at the Bridge Academy— “Have fun, Play better.” We offer a friendly environment with a wide variety of games and educational opportunities for all players- beginners to experts.

- Free mini-lessons on Monday at Noon
- Complimentary snacks and refreshments
- Guaranteed partner most games
- Improve your game through Common Game expert commentary and Pianola analytics

Special Events

- Social Duplicate (Wine & Cheese) on Mondays at 6:00 pm (0-100)
- Play & Learn (Barometer 0-500) on Thursdays at 12:30 pm
- Swiss Teams on Sunday, October 28 at 1 pm
- ACBL-wide Instant Match Point Game on Wednesday, October 31 at 12:30 PM
- Member Appreciation Month— 10 opportunities in October to win 81.8% of sectionally-rated black points
- International Fund Games

Regular Games

Mondays -Stratified Open and 0-500 Pairs at 12:30 pm

Wednesdays - Stratified Open and 0-300 Pairs at 12:30 pm

Thursdays - Stratified Open Pairs at 12:30 pm

Fridays - Stratified Open Pairs at 12:30 pm

OCTOBER TRIANGLE NEWS

Club Appreciation Month

In addition to upgraded Masterpoints, the Swiss events on Sunday, October 14; Wednesday, October 17; and Monday, October 23 will pay 5% GOLD points.

ACBL Instant Matchpoints

Wednesday, October 31 1:00 PM....please plan to join us.

North American Pairs District Finals

Flight C players can play the 2nd session Distract Final here locally on Sunday, November 11th at 10:00am.

Classes

Triangle Bridge actively supports the development and advancement of all players.

The next class Visualization 2 will begin Thursday, October 4th at 10:00am and will run for three consecutive weeks. The cost is \$84. This class is for players of all abilities but due to the volume of material, it is not designed for players who are new to bridge.

If you could picture the unseen hands..... How would your game improve?

Learn how to visualize your opponents' cards as declarer or defender.

Visualization 2

taught by Chris Moll

3 classes on Thursday mornings 10am-11:30am

October 4th, 11th, and 18th

Fee is \$84 for the series or \$30 to drop in

Please sign up in advance. Email trianglebridgeclub@gmail.com or call Chris Moll at (504) 495-7485.

PosterMyWall.com

Please see our website at www.trianglebridgeclub.net for additional information.

Thoughtful players are **welcomed** and **encouraged** during amnesty month to return their pencils for free complimentary sharpening and hopefully you get the point of this message.

Please join us for friendly competition at its best.

Questions: Contact Chris Moll (**504**)-495-7485 or trianglebridgeclub@gmail.com

“HOW TO” ARTICLES MAY HELP—NUTS AND BOLTS

By Kay Joyce



At the risk of boring you, I plan to write a few “how to” articles to give you and frequent partners an opportunity to review just “how” you play some of these complicated things that we all like to play. Everyone wants to play Keycard, but I find that I’m not sure that I’m on the same page with partners that I play with once or twice a month. If you can straighten out confusion, great; if not, move along.

I will do 3 articles on Keycard, getting more complicated each month:

1. First step response
2. “Queen ask, when you need to know and the answer you got was 5C or 5D.
3. Asking for specific kings; sometimes number of kings just doesn’t do the job—you need to know whether partner has the King of diamonds or the king of hearts!

First step over 4NT

Most of us are pretty proficient with this. The only hang up is whether you play RKC or 1430. Sometimes I will include part of a lesson I have done, so here goes...

A frequent reason for the failure of a slam was insufficient quality in the trump suit. An antidote to this was first played by the Italian Blue Team, hence the name “Roman” Keycard Blackwood, now usually shortened to Keycard. This variation on Blackwood adds the King of trumps to the Ace-asking process, just as if there are 5 aces.

The King of trumps often has just as much significance as an Ace, so it is given equal value by this convention.

Also incorporated into the responses, is information about the queen of trumps. The “queen info” may be imbedded in partner’s first response if he holds 2 keycards; otherwise, asker will have to “ask” for the queen with another bid. (*Next month*)

Part of Keycard’s value lies in the bridge player’s ability to find out about the king and queen of trumps, as these are very critical cards.

As it was originally written (in the 1960’s) the answers were:

5C = 0 or 3

5D = 1 or 4

5H = 2 without the trump queen

5S = 2 with the trump queen

Yes, Virginia, there are 5 Keycards and no response for that. If you need all 5, perhaps you are a little too ambitious!

Today many people call this old version “Roman Keycard,” as it was called originally when the Italians first played it.

Now many people reverse the answers to 5C and 5D, calling it 1430 (the easy to remember score for a small slam in a major!). Rank and file club players call this version just “Keycard” to differentiate it from the earlier version.

The reason for this reversal of meanings, I believe, is that 1 or 4 comes up more frequently, and if you are at 5C, you have another step (or more room) for further inquiries.

Back in the early days of RKC, many pairs got to grand slams off 3 aces! That came from misinterpreting the 0 or 3 or 1 or 4 responses to be the higher number. Today, we don’t see that so much, because bidding is more sophisticated, and there has often been a cue bid from responder that will give away the right answer. *If there is any doubt* about which partner has, asker should sign off, and responder should bid on with the higher number. I hope this gives you a little food for thought.

I suspect that many of you don’t bother too much with asking about the queen, if you get a 5C or 5D response. Wait ‘til next month! This month, be sure you are on the same page about RKC or 1430, and that you give some thought to the previous paragraph, if you have not already encountered that wrinkle



Interfering with NT Opener

Modern bridge theory encourages interfering with a NT opening bid. This can lead to a good score for the interfering team, but can also result in a poor score when conventions are applied at the wrong time. Students in this workshop will learn the fundamentals of when and how to interfere with a NT opener and, importantly, will learn when not to interfere. The workshop will examine the specifics of some of the more popular NT interference contracts, including natural bids, Reese transfers, Cappelletti, Meckwell, DONT, and Brozell. Partnerships may or may not want to adopt a specific convention, but knowledge of these conventions will be useful when confronted with its use in club games and tournaments. Also, knowledge of these interference conventions will be useful for the next workshop topic on Lebensohl.

Instructor – Marc Goldberg

Date - Friday, October 12

**Time – 9-noon - \$30 – walk-ins
\$35**

Deadline – October 5

Learn 2/1 In A Day!

The Nuts & Bolts

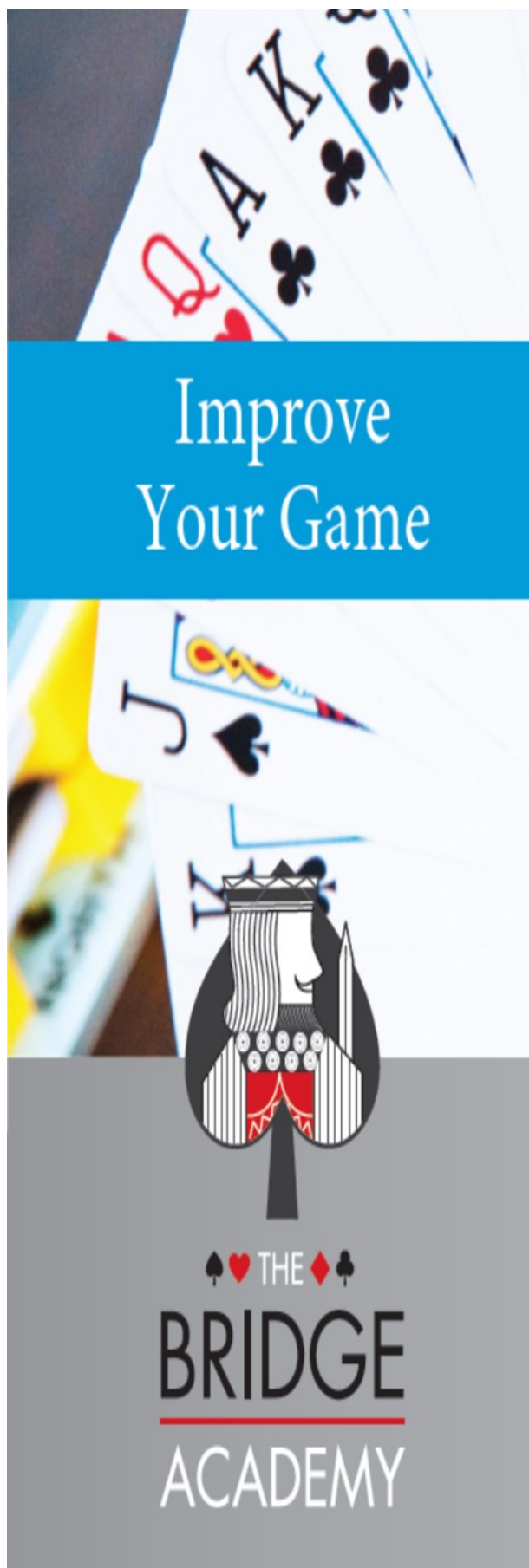
Playing 2/1 is more than just the first bid announcing or denying game forcing values. This workshop will help you understand when to make a 1NT forcing bid and when to create a game forcing auction with or without support for partner's major. Understanding the nuances of the system and inferences from the auction will help you decide when to stop in a part score, game or explore the possibility of slam. The format includes mini-lectures, bidding practice, interactive quizzes, and practice hands.

Instructor – Henry Meguid

Date - Saturday, October 27

Time – 9-3:30pm (Lunch included) - \$70

Deadline – October 20



Assumptions, Inferences & Conclusions

Analytical thinking is a key ingredient in improving your game. Inferences can be both positive or negative. They are based upon what your partner and the opponents bid and play. Assuming their actions are logical which may not always be the case, you can infer what they may have and what action you should take. Winning players have learned to draw correct inferences most of the time. In this workshop, participants will learn how to draw these inferences from bidding, play, leads, and defense.

Instructor – Henry Meguid

Date Tuesday, November 6

Time – 9-noon - \$30 – walk-ins \$35

Deadline - October 30

Lebensohl Convention

In modern duplicate bridge, opponents routinely interfere with NT opening bids using a variety of conventions. How does the NT bidding pair deal with the interference? Simple systems, such as Stolen Bid doubles, have their limitations. The Lebensohl convention is a comprehensive approach for the NT bidding pair to communicate their hands and find their best contract in the face of opponents' interference. This workshop will present Lebensohl in a straight-forward way that will allow pairs to adopt if for use quickly. Knowledge of the Lebensohl Convention for NT interference is essential for a future workshop on using Lebensohl over an opponent's 2-level preemptive bid and for responding to partner's reverse.

Instructor – Marc Goldberg

Date - Friday, November 16

Time – 9-noon - \$30 – walk-ins \$35

Deadline – November 9



Deadline – November 9

Traps to avoid when you are the Opening Bidder

Experienced players know their bidding system, they also develop the knowledge of not only what to open, but what to rebid. They can differentiate between forcing and non-forcing bids, between passing and bidding in both non-competitive and competitive auctions. They strive to always show their hand strength and shape with every action they take during the auction. In this workshop, participants will examine these bidding traps to improve their bidding skills and fine-tuned their partnership understanding.

Instructor – Henry Meguid

Date - Tuesday, November 27

Time – 9-noon - \$30 – walk-ins \$35

Deadline – October 30

Dynamic Defensive Signals

Undoubtedly defense is the most challenging aspect of the game because the defenders need to be on the same wavelength when interpreting defensive signals. These include attitude, count, suit preference and discards. However, these signals are dynamic, their meaning changes during the course of defense. In this workshop, participants will examine these signals and understand how to use them effectively to send the most relevant message to their partner.

Instructor – Henry Meguid

Date - Tuesday, December 11

Time – 9-noon - \$30 - walk-ins \$35

Deadline – December 4

The Bridge Academy



Have fun, Play better

Today							◀ OCTOBER 2018 ▶	Timezone: GMT -04:00
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
1 12:00pm Mini-les... 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm Stratifie... 6:00pm Social D...	2	3 12:30pm 0-300 ... 12:30pm Stratifie...	4 9:00am no title 12:30pm Barome... 12:30pm Open P...	5 9:00am no title 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm DCBC ...	6	7		
8 12:00pm Mini-les... 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm Stratifie... 6:00pm Social D...	9	10 12:30pm 0-300 ... 12:30pm Stratifie...	11 9:00am no title 12:30pm Barome... 12:30pm Open P...	12 9:00am Worksho... 9:00am no title 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm DCBC ...	13	14		
15 12:00pm Mini-les... 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm Stratifie... 6:00pm Social D...	16	17 12:30pm 0-300 ... 12:30pm Stratifie...	18 9:00am no title 12:30pm Barome... 12:30pm Open P...	19 9:00am no title 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm DCBC ...	20	21		
22 12:00pm Mini-les... 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm Stratifie... 6:00pm Social D...	23	24 12:30pm 0-300 ... 12:30pm Stratifie...	25 9:00am no title 12:30pm Barome... 12:30pm Open P...	26 9:00am no title 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm DCBC ...	27 2/1 Workshop	28 1:00pm Swiss Te...		
29 12:00pm Mini-les... 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm Stratifie... 6:00pm Social D...	30	31 12:30pm 0-300 ... 12:30pm ACBL I...	1 9:00am no title 12:30pm Barome... 12:30pm Open P...	2 9:00am no title 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm DCBC ...	3	4		
5 12:00pm Mini-les... 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm Stratifie... 6:00pm Social D...	6 9:00am Worksho...	7 12:30pm 0-300 ... 12:30pm Stratifie...	8 9:00am no title 12:30pm Barome... 12:30pm Open P...	9 9:00am no title 12:30pm 0-500 P... 12:30pm DCBC ...	10	11		

Congratulations to Martin Causley—our unit's newest Life Master!

I discovered bridge as a teenage student when my math teacher encouraged a school bridge club. A degree in pure mathematics and a career in software development then took me all over the world but after taking a sabbatical in my early 30's, I returned to England and vowed not to commute any more. With all of this extra time on my hands I rekindled my love of



bridge and found myself playing in my local village club meeting with some interesting partners:

1. **Wendy.** *She made the best lasagne.*
2. **Barry.** *A British Airways captain and training pilot who actually become a firm golfing (and drinking) buddy of mine as well as a regular bridge partner.*
3. **June.** *She had been taken hostage by a Luftwaffe pilot shot down in England (he actually held a gun to June's head), she was a great lady with great anecdotes, the one I shared with you is the tip of the iceberg.*
4. **Dougie.** *If you're ever in London and visiting the Imperial War Museum and find yourself exploring the mainland Italian campaign exhibit you'll most likely hear some commentary from Dougie with regard to that long and arduous effort.*

We'll fast forward now to 2009 when I was offered the chance to move to the RTP area as a principal software engineer. From England I was corresponding with **John Markey** about Raleigh Bridge Club and sure enough I departed Heathrow, London on a Wednesday and was playing bridge the next night at RBC. I joined the ACBL there and then, which 9 years later turned out to be a wise decision as my threshold for Life Master was now just 300 points. I struck up some regular partnerships with players who have mainly moved away now and discovered my future mother-in-law (**Barbara Hooks**) was also an avid bridge player. I managed to score some gold master points (with **Gary Kuhn**) in the Raleigh regional in May 2010 (I think) and so my journey began to gather pace. (continued)

In 2010 Liz and I moved to Evanston near Chicago for Liz to pursue a postdoctoral position there; after that Liz and I moved to Denver, Colorado. I discovered another bridge club there in Denver and they paired me up with another Englishman, but I was travelling regularly, fell out with this Englishman (they can't be trusted in slam bidding !!!) and then had 2 kids in Denver. My journey was now stalled on the interstate awaiting AAA.

With Liz's family being back in NC we decided to return to the Tar Heel state and so we moved into our house in Chapel Hill in January 2015. Now being far less than 1500 miles away, Barbara (my mother-in-law) suggested playing in some of the local NC sectional tournaments. I needed very little persuading and it was at one of these events that **Dean Shangler** approached me about playing together in evening games. From there Dean and I just clicked and I soon found myself recognizing old faces and names as I circulated among RBC, Triangle Bridge club and the Bridge Academy. The passion was truly re-ignited again and I strived to play the local sectional tournaments across NC in Durham, Raleigh, Winston, Greensboro, High Point.

Dean and I took a couple of road trips (Charlotte Fall Sectional / Williamsburg regional). We explored some team options and have partnered up with several excellent pairs for Swiss teams. All of this bridge provided a steady stream of master points, but it was not something I really paid much attention to as Dean and I would always opt to play in open or A/X events where applicable and just enjoy good bridge regardless of score. Serendipity then provided a nice pattern as I believe it was at the spring 2018 Raleigh Regional (and unbeknown to me) that I finally staggered over the LM threshold and the ACBL informed me that this leg of the adventure was complete.

Thank you to all of the eagle eyed players who offered me kind and congratulatory words for reaching the LM rank

Make the cards be forever in your favour

Regards,

Martin Causley

◀ Sep 2018	Triangle Bridge October 2018						Nov 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	2 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-500 Pairs	3 9:30 no game 1:00 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Swiss	4 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	5 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	6 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-2500 Play & Re-view	
7	8 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs 7:00 Open Swiss	9 12:30 Mentor Mentee 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-500 Pairs	10 9:30 no game 1:00 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	11 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	12 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	13 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-2500 Play & Re-view	
14 Eight is Enough Swiss 2:00 PM	15 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	16 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-500 Pairs	17 9:30 no game 1:00 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Swiss	18 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	19 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	20 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-2500 Play & Re-view	
21	22 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs 7:00 Open Swiss	23 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-500 Pairs	24 9:30 no game 1:00 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	25 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	26 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	27 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-2500 Play & Re-view	
28	29 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	30 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-500 Pairs	31 9:30 no game 1:00 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	GNT Swiss 10/3 & 10/8 ACBL Instant Matchpoint 10/31 Club Appreciation Swiss 5% Gold 10/14,10/17 & 10/22 Unit Championship Club Championship Club Appreciation Pairs Charity			