

Unit 191 Bright Leaf Alert

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ACBL UNIT 191

JANUARY 2020

Happy 2020! I hope that this will be a happy and healthy year for us all! I am honored to serve as Unit 191's president for the coming year. The 2020 Unit 191 Board of Directors is a group of people who love the game of bridge and are willing to volunteer their time and energy to make our unit fun and enjoyable for all. I welcome the new Board Members – **Paul Morrissette** and **Donna Walther** and re-elected members **Chris Moll** and **Phylliss Woody**. Each board member is elected to a three-year term and we appreciate them for their time and efforts on our behalf. You can read more about each member's official responsibilities on our Unit webpage.

Many thanks are due to our outgoing Board members – **Ed Fuller** and **Suzie Goldberg**. Ed Fuller served on the Board for two three-year terms. His many contributions include volunteering to help with our Youth Bridge Programs, keeping our Unit webpage current as well as serving as our Unit President the past two years. Suzie Goldberg joined our Board soon after moving to the Triangle and served as a dedicated treasurer for our Unit for the past three years. We most appreciate her efforts to help in any way she could – from volunteering at tournaments, to helping organize the Holiday Gala, to presenting a clear picture of our financial status each month. We thank both of these friends for their tireless efforts to better Unit 191.

I would like to thank all of our many volunteers who contribute to our Unit's activities of whom the Board of Directors is just a subset. Others contribute by organizing our Mentor/Mentee program, serving as club owners, directors, teachers, hospitality volunteers at clubs, Gala volunteers, and sectional tournament volunteers. So many people give their time and energy to provide enjoyable events for our players. Thank you to all! Your efforts are truly appreciated.

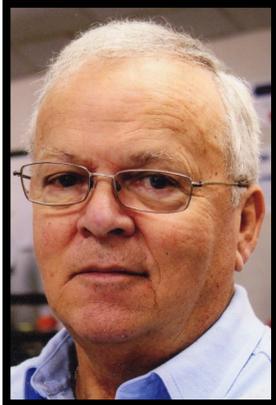
In 2019, the Board created a bridge education lecture series where the Unit organized six seminars taught by area bridge teachers. These sessions were well attended and provide all of us the opportunity to learn more and advance our bridge skills. We hope that you attended and enjoyed these events. There will be more opportunities in 2020 for players of all levels!

I look forward to fun times and laughs at the bridge table in 2020 and encourage everyone to get involved in Unit activities. We are a fun group!

Let's play bridge!

Deanna Larus, Unit 191 President





2020 191 Board—Seated: **Donna Walther, Jane Kiernan, Mariee Walton ,Phylliss Woody**; Standing—**Chris Moll, John Schachte, Marian Meyer, Hugon Karwowski, Deanna Larus, Ray McEntee, Craig Robinson** Inset—**Paul Morrisette**

OFFICERS OF UNIT 191
President - **Deanna Larus**
Vice-President - **Paul Morrisette**
Secretary - **Ray McEntee**
Treasurer - **Craig Robinson**

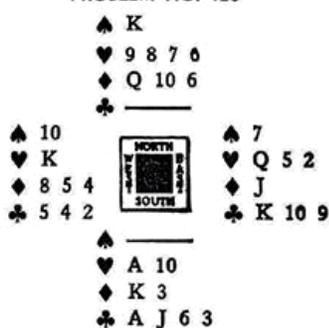
WEBSITE
Please check the unit 191 website for boat-loads of information!!! The assignments of the board members are listed—minutes of all board meetings are given—the alert is posted as well as alert archives for the past several years—members are recognized—upcoming tournaments are listed—all this information is kept up to date ———A huge thanks to **Marc Goldberg** for being our unit’s webmaster!!



MENTOR/MENTEE WINNERS
Valerie Roberts and Jack MaCann were the winners of the December 2019 Mentor/ Mentee game.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Raleigh Tournament January 31, February 1 and 2.

PROBLEM NO. 128



Spades are trump and South leads. North and South are to win seven tricks against any defense.

The Four Aces will be pleased to answer questions concerning bidding and play in bridge. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. The Playbill, 108 Wooster Street, New York City.

from the 1938 PLAY-BILL Magazine?

See article on page 9 of the December 2019 issue of the *Bright Leaf Alert*.

The double dummy problem is reprinted to the left.

The Four Aces were a group recruited in 1932 by Bid-Rite 4-Color Playing Cards. Originally, they were David Bruce, Richard Frey, Howard Schenken, and Charles Lockridge. Lockridge was replaced by Oswald Jacoby, as Michael T. Gottlieb was added to the team. As a result, they were referred to as "Four Aces and a Joker."

Give it a try. Don't bother writing to The Four Aces for the answer. However, our solution is elsewhere in this issue of the *Bright Leaf Alert*.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

1. **Double for penalty more.** Why let the opponents push you around even if they have stratospheric numbers of master-points. Good players will take chances on risky contracts if they don't respect your game. Make them play! If you double and set them, it's probably a top board. If you double them into game and they make it, it's probably a bottom board. If you don't double, the result is going to be average at best. Take a chance and burn them when you can.
2. **Take advantage of the situation at the table.** Be more aggressive in the third and fourth seats and balance whenever you can. Do not let the opponents play in two of a contract —ever!
3. **Call the director.** Goodbye to being meek and accommodating. No more deferring to the other players at the table. If an opponent tries to claim a hand by throwing in the cards without giving anyone a chance to look at them, call the director.
4. **Play with a new partner as much as possible.** If you play with the same partner all the time, you may not ever learn anything new. Learning how to signal properly may only be effective if playing with a better partner—get out of your comfort zone and play with people who will challenge you.
5. **Be a more aggressive bidder.** Ask—Whose hand is it? If it is our hand, bid. If wondering whether or not to go to game, go to game. Support your partner when possible. When responder, bid again when the opportunity is there.
6. **Be a more conservative bidder.** Aggressive doesn't mean dumb. If partner opens in third or fourth seat, or balances, tempter your enthusiasm. Full disclosure. Only go to the three level if you have extra trumps or good distribution. Do not bid at the three level without a true big hand with playing values. Do partner and I have a misfit? Stop the bidding as soon as you can.
7. **Don't fall in love with your hand**—even if you have a long beautiful suit—don't go to game if partner keeps putting down the green card.

Since I have been doing the Alert, Randy and Kay Joyce have faithfully contributed articles—that is seven years of writing helpful columns for our reading pleasure. The Joyces are attending the regional and taking a break this month —the following article is the first article submitted.

BILL DOES A SQUEEZE

How many of you have ever been in a bad contract? OK, good bidders, that's 50%. How many of you have ever been in a REALLY bad contract? Well, that's 49% more. How many of you have ever been in a REALLY, REALLY bad contract (hopeless actually) and brought it home. Here is our final 1%.

One of the best players in North Carolina is named Bill Wisdom. Many of you know him and know what he can do with a hand of cards in front of him. He is very tough to beat. Look at this example of his prowess from a KO team many years ago. I was his teammate and marveled at is calm under firm. Bill held:

S—AKQxxxxx

H—J

D—Ax

C—Kx

His LHO opened a weak 2 diamonds and after Partner passed, Bill judged his hand too good to merely bid 4 spades. He started with a Double.

After a pass on his left, Bill's nameless partner bid 4 hearts. What could he do but bid 4 NT, and after a 2 Key Card response, bid a comfortable 6 spades? When dummy showered down with:

S—T

H—KQTxx.

D—xx

C— Axxxx

Bill saw that the KQ of Hearts was not an A and that he had no legitimate play for his contract, with the K of Diamonds opening lead.

Bill knows not to show displeasures and lament his bad contract, but to hunker down and try to think of some way to bring it home.

How is it possible to take 12 tricks? The only hope is a squeeze. But for a squeeze to work, you have to duck a trick to rectify the count. Since you can't duck later, you have to duck **The First Trick!!** I know you have a Heart loser. Bill knew he had a Heart loser. His LHO didn't think he had a Heart loser if he could afford to duck the first trick. He was afraid to lead a Heart for fear that it would get ruffed giving Bill a pitch. RHO held xx, Axxxx, Kx, QJxx. Where could any of his tricks go? Not quite able to read his partner's Diamond spot, LHO led the trump Jack to eliminate a potential ruff in dummy.

This was all Bill needed. Our declarer par excellence won the trump shift, cashed his Diamond A, and proceeded to run his trumps. Those of you not familiar with squeezes, deal out these hands and see what happens. With one trump still left I his hand, everyone had been reduced to 4 cards (remember you ducked the first Diamond).

The dummy was Heart K, and Axx of Clubs. LHO held QJ of Diamonds and Tx of clubs, RHO held A of Hearts and QJx of Clubs. When the last trump was led and the Heart K was pitched out of the dummy, what could RHO discard? If RHO threw his A of Hearts, Bill's J would be good, and if he threw a Club, Bill would run the clubs.

RHO forlornly discarded the Heart Ace, hoping his partner held the Jack.

Slam bid. Slam made!! If you don't believe me, lay out the cards to see if you can make the hand without ducking the first Diamond. The squeeze just doesn't work.

The point of the hand is two-fold. The first is when you arrive at a truly horrible contract, rather than marshalling your thoughts for scolding partner about his bad bidding, and rather than telling the whole table that you are going down, try to remain calm and figure out a way to rescue yourself. The second is to play especially hard against Bill Wisdom, because, if given the chance, he will steal not only your masterpoints, but your undergarments as well.



Triangle Bridge January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		January is ACBL Junior Fund Month. All games pay upgraded points.	1 12:30 Open Pairs 7:00 No game	2 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	3 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	4 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-3000 Play & Review
5	6 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1250 Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	7 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs	8 12:30 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	9 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	10 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	11 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-3000 Play & Review
12	13 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1250 Pairs 7:00 GNT Swiss	14 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs	15 12:30 Open Pairs 7:00 GNT Swiss	16 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	17 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	18 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-3000 Play & Review
19 Eight is Enough Swiss Teams 2:00	20 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1250 Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	21 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs	22 12:30 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	23 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	24 12:20 Open Pairs 12:20 0-500 Pairs	25 9:30 Open Pairs 9:30 0-3000 Play & Review
26	27 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1250 Pairs 7:00 GNT Swiss	28 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-750 Pairs	29 12:30 Open Pairs 7:00 Open Pairs	30 12:30 Open Pairs 12:30 0-1000 Pairs	31 Closed for Raleigh Sectional	

2020 Guest Speakers at The Bridge Academy

Saturday, February 15 - Robert Todd

Morning Session—**Problem Opening Bid**

Afternoon Session—**Trump Suit Management**

Friday, April 2, 2020—Barbara Seagram

Tricks From Out of Nowhere

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 - Jim Ricker

Morning Session—**Target Invitations Using Losing Trick Count**

Afternoon Session—**Slow Arrival/Fast Arrival Using Losing Trick Count**

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Check the **Bridge Academy** website for details and registration.

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR



A wonderful time was had by everyone at the 2019 Holiday Gala! Lunch was festive. Thanks to outgoing President **Ed Fuller** for his review of 2019 and his direction for the successful revision of our bylaws. He remembered those friends who we are missing this season and paid tribute to some of our many accomplished bridge friends in our Unit. It was fun to hear about such success! Congratulations to **Maggie Lindquist** (2018) and **Barbara Martin** (2019) who were chosen as our Hall of Fame award winners for their contributions to our Unit. Congratulations to **Joyce Jenzano** (past Board President!) as well, who was our 2019 nominee for the District 7 Goodwill competition. We so appreciate all of the time and effort that they have given and continue to give to our Unit. Thank you so much to all of the members who worked behind the scenes to put on the Gala; **Suzie Goldberg** for keep track of attendees and helping with just about everything. Thanks to **John Torrey and Maggie Lindquist** for directing the game. Thanks to my set up and clean up crew – **Suzie and Marc Goldberg, Tony and Marian Meyer, Ray McEntee, Eric Larson, Ian Cloudsdale, Jane Kiernan, Ed Fuller, Roman Davis, John Schachte, Mariee Walton, Hugon Karwowski and Chris Moll**. Thanks to **Phylliss Woody** for serving as event photographer throughout the afternoon. Check out her pictures on the Unit 191 website! Our unit gifted gala attendees with a holiday pen. Find extra pens at TBC and the Bridge Academy this week. See you at the bridge table in 2020!





The group of bridge players known as “The Rising Stars” - each player with less than 5 masterpoints .

This was definitely the highlight of the party—8 tables! Wishing each of them full speed ahead in learning the game of bridge.



Robin Marin and her band of angels — who served a delicious lunch to 160 persons! **Katie Wilson, Diane Saulsberry, Carol Meguid. Robin Marin, Karen Keehler, Mary Ferguson, Ann Vaughan and Audrey Crosby**

Well done Ladies!!!

*Holiday Party at
The Bridge Academy*

40 tables of players celebrated the season on Dec. 20. 17 in the Open—8 in the Rising Stars and 15 in 0-500



A jazz band provided entertainment for bridge players during lunch and appetizers.

Players in the open section discuss bidding strategies.



Dear Bridge Academy players,

Thank you so much for your generous adoption of 20 needy children at the Lakewood Elementary school. We were able to fill 40 very large shopping bags with gifts (2 per child) and obtain 10 "like new" bicycles. Check out the attached pictures, and visualize the kids opening their packages on [Christmas](#) morning.

God bless you all.

Sincerely, **Debbie and Mike Sears**



Solution to Double Dummy Bridge Problem

No. 128 from the 1938 PLAYBILL Magazine

Play the Ace of hearts from South and then lead the 3 of diamonds to dummy's queen. Play the King of spades and throw the King of diamonds from your hand. Follow with the 10 of diamonds, pitching a small club, and the 6 of diamonds to West's 8 of diamonds. After pitching either a heart or a club on this trick, East comes down to three cards. If East keeps three clubs, pitch another club, leaving you the 10 of hearts and A and J of clubs for the last three tricks. If East keeps the Queen of hearts and two clubs, pitch the 10 of hearts, leaving you the A, J & 6 of clubs for the last three tricks.

Remember to:

1. Pick up your trash and belongings after a game and push in your chairs.
2. Be nice to your partner and opponents.
3. Thank the directors for organizing the many games held in our unit.
4. Smile.

The Brightleaf Alert is published monthly and is the official publication of Unit 191

If you have ideas for articles or suggestions to improve the Alert, please notify a board member or Barbara Martin, Editor

Triangle Bridge Club
Sunday afternoons
Jan 19th, Feb 9th, March 1st



Swiss Teams
2 pm

Contact Chris Moll 504-495-7485 or trianglebridgeclub@gmail.com

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TRIANGLE BRIDGE PRESENTS

The holidays are over. Now give yourself a gift.



SHARPEN YOUR DECLARER PLAY

How do advanced players think about a hand and what kind of techniques do they use to make their contracts? Kickstart your bridge New Year by learning the skills and techniques which will improve your game. Suits vs. NT, evaluating alternatives, safety plays, risking your contract- join us to take your game to the next level.

Thursdays 10am-11:30am
Jan 9, 16, 23, & 30th

Fee is \$100 or drop in for \$29.
Call Chris Moll 504-495-7485 or email
trianglebridgeclub@gmail.com



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TRIANGLE BRIDGE CLUB

JANUARY 2020 NEWS

Happy New Year!

January is an ACBL Junior Fund month. All games pay upgraded points. Please check the calendar at <http://www.trianglebridgeclub.net/schedules.html> for all special events.

Good news. New limited games

Congratulations to all our future life master and new life master players who improved their skills in 2019. We have expanded our brackets for limited games to make certain our developing players have the opportunity to continue to improve playing against their peers. Monday afternoon limited games have been increased to 0-1250 and Tuesday afternoon limited games have been increased to 0-750.

New Class: Sharpen Your Declarer Play, Thursdays Jan 9-30th, 10am-11:30am

Do you ever wonder, how could I have made that contract? Learn how advanced players think about evaluating lines of play and the techniques they use to make their contracts. Kickstart your New Year and give yourself the gift of new skills and techniques to make your contracts from the easy to the challenging. Suits vs NT, evaluating alternative lines of play, safety plays, win to risk your contract...This class includes lessons and card play to practice what you learn.

GNT Qualifiers: Wednesday, January 15th 7pm & Mondays, Jan 13th and 27th 7pm

January continues the cycle to qualify to earn the right to represent District 7 at the Summer North American Bridge Championships in 2020. The District awards generous stipends to teams to attend in Montreal. Red/black points are awarded.

Eight is Enough January 19th 2:00pm

Sunday, January 19th at 2:00pm is the "Eight is Enough" Team Game. Although teammates are not guaranteed, please contact Chris Moll (504) 495-7485 via text or email trianglebridgeclub@gmail.com by 1pm on Saturday, January 18th for assistance.

Triangle Bridge is closed on Friday, January 31st and Saturday, February 1st for the Raleigh Sectional and open on Sunday, February 2nd as we host the Raleigh Sectional Swiss Teams.

We are closed on Friday and Saturday of the Raleigh Sectional to support our neighbors. Please note the Raleigh Sectional Swiss event on Sunday, February 2nd will be held at Triangle Bridge.

Please join us for friendly competition at its best.

Chris Moll

trianglebridgeclub@gmail.com

504-495-7485 cell

Two Unit 191 players excel at the 92nd Fall North American Bridge Championships (NABC) in San Francisco!

Rose Meltzer won the Keohane North American Swiss Teams at the 92nd Fall NABC in San Francisco: a 2-day event on December 7-8, 2019. It was a dramatic, close finish. Rose's team took the lead in Round 4 with 76.6 Victory Points (VPs), 10 VPs ahead of the 2nd place team. After Round 7, their lead was trimmed to a little under 3 VPs. They lost the final round, but saved a narrow overall win, 114.36 VPs to 113.57 VPs. Local Raleigh player, **Alex Hudson**, playing with Jonathan Steinberg from Toronto, was on a team that came in 8th place.

Rose has won at least three major NABC events and two open World Team championships, probably the best record by a woman in open competition history.

Jacek Pszczola, on a team captained by **Josef Blass**, both of Unit 191, won the inaugural Soloway Knockout Teams on December 1, 2019 at the Fall North American Bridge Championships. Pszczola, better known as *Pepsi*, is a bridge pro and travels so much he is seldom seen locally. Josef, however, plays in our clubs and tournaments from time to time.

The new, top-tier contest, named in honor of late Hall of Famer Paul Soloway, a multiple world and NABC champion, as well as the former all-time ACBL masterpoint leader, began with a two-day Swiss qualifying round from which 32 squads advanced. Five days of head-to-head knockout matches followed to produce a single winner: Team Blass!

Sebastiaan (Bas) Drijver of Team Blass was highlighted in a Roland Wald Facebook post for executing a rare criss-cross squeeze in the semi-finals of the event.

Roland Wald Facebook post:

In yesterday's semi-finals in the Soloway Knockout Teams in San Francisco, **Bas Drijver** from The Netherlands executed the rare criss-cross squeeze to land this vulnerable game.

Joel Wooldridge cashed two heart tricks and played a third heart, ruffed with the 5 and over-ruffed by John Hurd. He exited with a trump, won in the North hand with the jack. Drijver then drew the last two trumps with a low spade to the ace.

Next came two successful diamond finesses and Drijver read the layout perfectly when he placed both minor kings with West and continued with another two trumps.

Before the last trump, Hurd was down to Kx Kx in the minors, so when declarer cashed his last spade, pitching club jack from the dummy, Hurd was caught in a criss-cross squeeze. He had the unpleasant choice of deciding how the last three tricks would be taken.

The contract can be defeated if East switches to a club at trick two (who would find that at the table?) but no matter what, it takes nothing away from Drijver's brilliant card-reading.

That was worth 10 IMPs for Team Blass when N-S at the other table stopped in 3S.

Submitted by Ed Fuller