

UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

MAY 2020

Hello everyone!

I have so enjoyed playing against so many of you on BridgeBase Online (www.bridgebase.com) now that two of our Clubs have started holding virtual club games on this website. As another Unit member has said to me – “It is so much more fun to play with our friends than with strangers.” Thanks to **Henry Meguid and Chris Moll** for working with the ACBL and BBO getting us back to playing bridge. Currently they are running club games with anywhere from 5-14 tables but they can accommodate more. I hope that you will join us playing online as we wait out the opening of our physical clubsites.

I also want to update you on our fundraising efforts. At the end of March, we started a GoFundme account for BrightLeaf Unit 191 with the idea of helping our clubs survive in these trying times. To date, 179 bridge players have made donations (either online or sent by snail mail) to this effort and we have raised approximately \$25000 to help The Bridge Academy and Triangle Bridge Clubs with their fixed costs while the clubs are closed. Thank you so much! We have far exceeded our initial goal of \$12000 in the first month. During these uncertain times, our goal is to split these funds 50/50 between the two clubs. At this point, we estimate that we can help them for at least for first few months. Will this be enough? We do not know for sure at this time. The Unit Board of Directors, Henry Meguid, and Chris Moll are very appreciative of the generosity of our members as we navigate these uncertain times.

I also want to reach out and thank two members who are working on behalf of our unit during this time. **Marc Goldberg** is tirelessly keeping the information on our Unit website current. There you can find game schedules, BBO instructions and fundraising information posted as well as current and past editions of the Alert and the Unit Online Directory. So if you have questions or need information about one of our clubs or Unit activities, please check www.bridgewebs.com/brightleafunit191. It saddens me to hear that some of our members have never even visited this resource. It is so useful! Also, **Ed Fuller** has also been working to solve some problematic issues with our email system and has been exploring better options for our communication needs. Read more in this issue of the Alert and be on the lookout for emails in the coming week from our unit with specific instructions.

Stay Well -

Deanna Larus

Unit 191 is making changes to our communication system. These changes include:

- a **Members Only** section on the unit website, available only to Unit 191 members and friends;
- a new online directory, the **Member List**; and
- a database for emailing unit membership via *BridgeWebs'* email service.

This new system will be based on the information you have provided to the ACBL. Accordingly, you are encouraged to update your personal information with ACBL, as appropriate.

In the near future, Unit 191 will send you an e-mail asking you to go to the Unit's website to confirm your information. The Unit website is at: <http://unit191bridge.org/>. Once you are on the website:

- Click on **Members Only** tab, the second tab on the left-hand side.
- You will be asked to create a personal password.
- Once you are in **Members Only** section, go to **Member List** for the new online directory.
- Go to your name on **Member List**.
- Review your information and update it as needed by using the **Account** tab.
- As a default the **Yes** option was selected for all the **Opt In** and **Show** options. Please change per your preference.
- Note: the **BBO Name** is unfortunately not changeable by a member. Moreover, it is not currently available in the ACBL database. At this time, please send your BBO Name to Jane Kiernan at jik2215@gmail.com so that we can add it to our member database.

We expect that this change will improve communications between the unit and its members as well as between the members themselves while keeping member information private.

Ed Fuller and Marc Goldberg are working on this project. I thank them for their efforts on the unit's behalf. If you have questions or comments please contact Ed Fuller at edwin.fuller@gmail.com with a Cc to Marc Goldberg at goldberg73@gmail.com.

Thanks to so many in our unit who made this May issue of the Alert happen. In mid-April , I wondered about even trying to put together information for May. Almost everyone I contacted sent a response to online play—thank you for giving the unit such great thoughts; **Randy and Kay** always have an article to keep our bridge minds keen; **Elaine** sent an interesting article and **Craig** came through with his interview.

Ed Fuller is a storehouse of bridge information—he always supplies me with ideas. **Deanna** gives me updates in the unit and **Chris and Henry** keep us all current with club happenings. If anyone has ideas for articles, send them my way. Thanks to everyone who make my job easier!!!

Barbara Martin

Listen to Your Partner

By Randy Joyce

Playing in a recent BBO local game (terminology has sure changed), you pick up a promising hand:

S... Kxx

H...KQx

D...KQx

C...Axxx

and are pleasantly surprised to hear partner open 1 Heart.

You respond 2 Clubs (Forcing to game), and partner rebids 2 Hearts. You bid 2 Spades. As I tell my groups, this is a BIG bid. Two Spades shows a hand that has promise for more than just a game, because with just game going points you would close things out with 4 Spades over the 2 Heart bid.

Also, partner knows that you only have 3 Spades, since you did not start with Jacoby 2NT. Over your 2 Spades, partner bids 4 Spades. What do you do?

I have given this hand to many people, and the bid that all of them made was 4NT Keycard Blackwood (except my real partner). Partner shows 2 Keycards with the Q of Spades. They all place the contract in 6 Spades. DOWN 2, with only 1 bad break and 1 good one.

Partner's hand was

S...AQxxx

H..Axxx

D..xx

C..Qx

This is certainly a hand that all of you would open. What went wrong? The problem was that you didn't listen to partner who professed no slam interest unless you had a WHALE of a hand. The bad break was that trumps were 4-1. Not an unheard of distribution. The Hearts were 3-3 so you didn't have to worry about your fourth heart. If the Diamond A had been onside to pitch the Club, then you might have made a slam.

Let's see now... You need trumps 3-2, you need Hearts 3-3, you need the Diamond Ace outside. You really need the Club King outside too. Add it all up, and this is a pretty miserable slam.

How could you stay out? Listen to Your Partner! Is there an echo in here? Partner heard your 2/1. Partner heard your 2 Spade bid. Yet, partner jammed the auction with 4 Spades to tell you to back off.

Sometimes hands are not all cut and dried like this one.

Suppose I had held

S..AQJxx

H..Axxx

D..xx

C..Kx

Not much difference, but a somewhat better hand. Now, you don't have to worry about the 4-1 trump split, and you don't have to worry about a Club loser. In this hand, if the Diamond ace is outside or the Hearts are 3-3 or there is a Club Heart squeeze (for a later article), you will make your slam. How do we alert partner to the fact that your hand is not so hopeless for slam?

Remember these rules:

1. If the auction starts as this one did, you are always going to play some number of Spades. You are not going to venture out to a different strain. What do I mean by this? All your bids are aimed toward getting to 4 Spades or 6 Spades or 7 Spades. You are not suddenly going to play some other suit or NT.
2. After the aforementioned 2 Spade bid by partner, a Cue bid shows the Ace of that suit and shows a hand that is definitely interested in slam. What if you have a hand like I showed in the 2nd example?
3. With a hand like I had in the second example, I would bid 2NT over 2 Spades. This, in expert parlance, is a frivolous slam try. It means you don't have a good enough hand to cue bid, but your hand is not hopeless for slam purposes. Partner could then take over with Keycard and get you to the good slam.
4. Remember, that 4 Spades by opener means I have dreck and bid again at your own risk. 2NT says that I don't have a great hand, but I am not embarrassed to go higher if you have a great hand.
5. A cue bid shows a great hand yourself and only the lack of Keycards will keep you out of slam.
6. Watch out for Kay! She listens! She passed 4 Spades in a heartbeat, and when I was able to make +420 we had a score of 6.5/7.



MEET CRAIG ROBINSON

When a tall slender gentleman enters the bridge arena wearing a ball cap with a P on it—we immediately know it's Craig. He is an avid Philadelphia fan—Eagles, Phillies and doesn't mind letting the world know of his patronage. Craig is now serving his second year on our unit board, this year as treasurer. This is what we already know but here is what we didn't know about him.

When asked about his career, his reply was: *I started working for RCA as a programmer in their Missile and Surface Radar division. I worked mainly on 'over the horizon' radar which was interesting to 'see' an object before it came into view (Columbus might have made it to the US if he had OTH Radar). Later I worked on heat transfer on the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) which landed on the moon. It was at this time I realized the mathematics of my job had exceeded my abilities, so I changed fields and became a programmer in the commercial world at Rohm and Haas. I applied for an opening as assistant controller of the Research Division and they were desperate and hired me. I became controller when my boss retired and stayed there until retirement.*

Elaine and I have five children from former marriages, and nine grandchildren (the youngest two are boys following seven granddaughters). Three children are in the Philadelphia area, one in Atlanta, and one in Chicago. We retired to Durham four years ago. I hated the cold weather.

Bridge has been part of our lives for a long time. In the beginning, the learning curve was very steep and I found that both challenging and rewarding. Now I am old, and I just love to play the game. It is a great game because of the social aspect of the game from the partnership to the opponents. In 2003, I ran for District Director and won. I joined the other 24 representatives throughout the US and Canada to form the ACBL Board of Directors. In 2011, I was elected President of the ACBL and decided to tour the ACBL by going to 100 clubs in 100 days. 4 of those clubs were here in the Raleigh/Durham area. But I did go to 37 states, two provinces and drove 18,500 miles.



May 4, 2011

Jay and Darleen Bates welcome ACBL President, Craig Robinson, to the Triangle Bridge Club.

As ACBL President, Craig has committed to visit "100 clubs" in 100 days this summer. One of the first clubs he stopped at on his nationwide tour was TBC in Durham, and he proved his playing ability by pairing up with Jay to take first overall with a very nice 70 percent game.

Editor's note: Some things haven't changed—still winning with huge percentage games.



American Contract
Bridge League

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Dear Club Managers, District/Unit Presidents and Tournament Coordinators,

Cities, states and provinces are starting to release their communities from “stay at home” orders. In an earlier email (dated March 18, 2020), ACBL advised that clubs be closed until at least May 11, 2020, based upon recommendations from the Centers for Disease control and Prevention. Since that time, many local authorities have announced plans to gradually reopen the economy if certain guidelines are met.

It will be up to local governments to determine how and when businesses and mass gathering events will be open to the public. You should look to these authorities for details on when your club can reopen and when tournaments will be allowed to resume. Please keep in mind that your local government may require social distancing to continue, which is not possible while playing bridge in person at the table.

While you should follow those guidelines, the ACBL recommends that you err on the side of extreme caution given that our membership population faces an increased risk from COVID-19. It would not be unreasonable to plan to delay operations at least until the end of the summer.

There is not an official ACBL date for when club games and tournaments may resume. Please comply with your local government regulations. When you plan to resume operations, please notify the ACBL at least two weeks prior to that date by emailing club@acbl.org for opening clubs and tournaments@acbl.org for holding tournaments.

Thank you,

Joseph Jones

ACBL, Executive Director

April 29, 2020

A POSER FROM ED FULLER

What is the minimum number of high card points that a partnership needs to make a grand slam in a suit contract? Solution is on page 15.



Julian Laderman was invited to The Bridge Academy some months ago and he spoke about his book “Bumblepuppy Days”. Ed has provided some of the myths of bridge taken from this book. Look for one or two in the coming issues of the Alert.

Bridge History Myths

November 15, 2017 Julian Laderman

Let's take a look at some of the commonly misunderstood stories about the history of duplicate bridge. Although the myths on the list are assigned rankings, they are actually arranged roughly chronologically.

10. Bridge players created duplicate.



Reality: The idea of replaying hands by different partnerships or teams and comparing results was started by duplicate whist players. The first well-documented duplicate team event took place in England in 1857. Both the Mitchell movement and Howell movement were used by whist players in the 1890s. Because their inventors, John T. Mitchell and Edwin C. Howell, died in 1914 and 1907, respectively, neither could have ever played a single hand of contract bridge.

ANCHOR SYSTEM BRIDGE

U. S. S. TRYON (APH-1)

COUNT	VOID SUIT - 3
ACES - 4	SINGLETON - 2
KINGS - 3	DOUBLETON - 1
QUEENS - 2	
JACKS - 1	

IF OPENING BIDDER HAS A COUNT 0

12 -	BID -	1 CLUB
15 -	BID -	1 DIAMOND
18 -	BID -	1 HEART
21 -	BID -	1 SPADE
24 -	BID -	1 NO TRUMP

IF PARTNER HAS COMBINED COUNT

27 -	BID -	2 SPADES
		YOU HAVE A GAME HAND
33 -	BID -	2 NO TRUMP
		YOU HAVE A SMALL SLAM
36 -	BID -	3 NO TRUMP
		YOU HAVE A GRAND SLAM

IF YOUR COMBINE COUNT IS NOT 27 - YOU DON'T HAVE A GAME

BID YOUR BEST 5 CARD SUIT

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GAME HAND AND DON'T HAVE A 5 CARD SUIT

BID 1 NO TRUMP THIS IS A BEST HAND

NEVER PASS YOUR PARTNER'S OPENING BID - HE IS BIDDING POINTS - NOT CARDS

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SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. OCTOBER 10, 1942.

Submitted by Ed Fuller

My dad served on the USS Tryon, an Evacuation Transport (AHP-1) ship, during World War II. Dad was the navigator. I found this Anchor bidding system among his things. Maybe his genes are the source of some of my occasional-ly strange bids.



BRIDGE WITH LARRY COHEN

“Best of the Best”

A BIG PLUS SCORE

Author: Larry Cohen

One of my favorite sayings in bridge is, “When in doubt, bid one more on freak deals.” One of Marty Bergen’s favorite sayings is, “Voids are magical.” Both factors came into play on this deal from the Round Robin in the 2000 Olympiad in Maastricht.

Vul: E-W

Dlr: North

	S-AKQ104	
	H-2	
	D-10652	
	C-863	
S-J96532		S- -
H-A1094		H-QJ87
D- -		D-J3
C-A94		C-KQJ10752
	S-87	
	H-653	
	D-AKQ9874	
	C- -	

It would have been fun to watch this board at all 36 tables of the Olympiad.

With the heart finesse on, E-W can make all 13 tricks in clubs for 2140.

But, the most common contract was five diamonds by South (usually doubled).

What happens in diamonds? Unless West finds a spade lead (spade ruff, heart over, spade ruff), that contract makes.

It might even make six if the defense doesn’t get any spade ruffs. In fact, the most common result was five diamonds (doubled) making six, , 650 NS. That’s quite a result on a hand where their opponents have a grand slam!

Many Norths opened 1 spade or 2 spades. East overcalled in clubs and South introduced diamonds. The race was on. No matter how many diamonds NS bid, it was always right for EW to bid one more in clubs—all the way up to 7 clubs. And, conversely, no matter how many clubs EW bid, it was always right for NS to bid one more in diamonds, all the way to 7 diamonds.

In one round-robin match, Austria won 22 imps against Switzerland by making 1090 on the NS cards (6 diamonds doubled on a club lead) in one room. At the other table North started with 2 spades and East overcalled 3 clubs. Then, a bidding war ended with East playing 7 clubs doubled, which, of course made for 2330. I know the IMP table fairly well, but I have to admit that I don’t know offhand how many imps you win for 3420 on one deal (that’s 1090 + 2330). If you consult the imp table, you’ll see that this is 22 imps (just short of the 3500 required for 23 imps).

I actually played on a team once and lost 24 imps. And it was on a deal where we were –110 against two spades at our table! It turns out that our teammates had a mix up and played in a redoubled cue-bid (a 2-1) fit, down 7 vulnerable; -4000. To lose the maximum of 24 imps you need to lose more than 4,000; 4000 and 110 did the trick. I give my teammate credit for being clever in the comparison. We read. “-110” and he replied “Lose them all.” Surely, you’ll soon be reading more about this deal on my website.

Thank you **Elaine Landow** for this article

ONLINE BRIDGE PLAY

I sent emails to those bridge players who had given their user name on BBO to Jane for the directory asking for their thoughts about online play. I also sent emails to those members who I have played against online. Here are their responses:

Skip Riva— *I like online play when it is directly related to the bridge clubs we belong to. It almost makes it seem like we are there....almost. I actually called Chris a couple of days ago and told him I think we should play at the clubs with iPads or other devices all the time. That way we could spread out the tables and not worry about coughs and sneezing, etc. I seriously believe before the end of this year or next, that is the way we will play. Also where else can you play bridge and be sitting in the bath tub together. Think about it—never have a sit out. If at a game and odd number of people, call someone and they can play at home.*

Roger Hayes—*I am not competitively playing on BBO but I do play on it against the computers as a past time during these shut in days when I've quit playing golf. I think the system is quite overloaded. Many times I can't get on it and when I do, often times I get locked out in the middle of a game. So that has discouraged me from paying money to play for master points with a system I feel is not large enough to handle the traffic, often over 10,000 players. This is just my take on it. I may be wrong as I often am when trying to interpret my partner's bids.*

Kay Gruninger—*I love playing online. I think it may be the safest way to play bridge for several months to come yet. The game is done in two hours or less and you don't even have to dress up or take a shower to do it! It takes a little practice to get the knack but after a time or two, you're good to go. You can go to BBO online and play the solitaire bridge to see how it feels.*

Irwin and Deb Kahn—*We have not played online yet. We keep talking about doing it.*

Jim Cunningham—*I really enjoy the "social" side of bridge, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. My only previous experience with online bridge was about 10 years so when Henry was a tough task master, getting Barbara M., Jim Bean and I to play and tinker with an advanced form of Precision which he called*

Jepster in honor of Joanna Pagano's email address. I am not sure why he called it that because I don't think she ever went down that dark hole. Playing it meant studying about 60 thick pages of two-way transfers and other intricate schemes and maneuvers. Too much like engineering or calculus. I think I played in the last two live games before it all shut down, a Sat at TBC and a Mon with 7 others in Raleigh.. For a couple of weeks I did projects which I had been procrastinating to keep my wife Jill happy, organized my taxes, updated our wills and read more than usual.

After making a contribution to Unit 191, I decided to try BBO to help TBC and BA survive. I was nervous and the format looked very different to me than I remembered 10 years ago. I was E and it was also disorienting to me because I almost always play W or S.

On the very first board I thought my partner opened IH when my RHO had opened 1H. I had 4 H's and about 7 HCP so I bid 2H. My LHO jumped to 6D (I had 5 D's, J10xxx) and was in a panic at this point because I had figured out what I had done and was praying my partner would pass so I could X because I also had the K of H's, a likely trick. Unfortunately John Torrey had 5 S's and thinking I had 5 bid 6S which was X'd for minus 1400. Fortunately John is a mellow, understanding and smart partner who even figured out what I did wrong. I somewhat recovered and we came back from that zero to have a 56 pct game.

I have called Pearl a couple of times to see if she wanted to be on the phone with me while I was playing with John, whom she also plays with. She said no but is happy and sounds as upbeat as

ever.

My advice to all my friends is that if I can figure out BBO, surely you can. I am playing 3 times a week and enjoying it. The price is reasonable, 18 bds only takes two hours and you will be helping out our two clubs to make it through this mess. There is also a chat line at the bottom of the screen where you can send messages while you are playing. So please come join jimham5354 at the tables.

Pahnea Ratty—*It's grand that we have BBO!*

Sometimes the games, mainly our club games are very slow. I think they could shave off a minute since we don't have to arrange our cards, think of George and our dear Pearl. The most fun games that move very quickly are the speedball games and they are cheap. On another subject, I'm concerned about ACBL. They have a lot of games and many players. Are they going to share their income from BBO games with the clubs? I'm not speaking of the support for your local club games. You have any idea how much Chris and Henry receive from their games? Just curious. I like getting our own table and playing. We discuss the bidding, etc. since it's casual, we are connected on our phones, it's like sitting at the table. We laugh, etc. we restrict the table just to us. Learning to navigate BBO has certainly been a learning experience. Who says you can't teach OLDSTERS new stuff?

Suzie Goldberg—*No one likes this social isolation, but fortunately Bridge Base Online has allowed us to keep playing the game. When Marc and I moved from Pennsylvania to Durham several years ago, we left many of our friends and bridge partners behind. Since they cannot go to their bridge clubs either, BBO gave us a platform to reconnect and play a few games online together. One of my partners and mentors has since moved to Denver. I would never be able to just fly to Denver to play bridge, but BBO gives us an easy way to link up for a game.*

Marc Goldberg—*Before the Coronavirus isolation, I had not played much bridge on BBO. I am pretty computer savvy, but BBO to me was more like a video game which is not my forte. So playing on BBO has been somewhat of a challenge, but I believe it is actually helping my bridge game.*

I am a visual learner. At the club, when I see my partner or opponent put down a bid on the table, it sticks with me. On BBO, the bids go into a bidding box that goes away quickly after the third pass card is played. At first, I usually forgot the bidding and had a hard time remembering which player made which call. Obviously, that is not a formula for winning bridge. It forced me to concentrate on the bidding so I could translate that into who had what during the play.

On BBO, the trick is turned as soon as the winning player plays the next card, and you cannot ask for a review of that trick. At first, I had a hard time remembering what cards had been played and what was still out. Again, I had to concentrate on each trick in order to keep up.

Some of the BBO tournaments I play are 18 board games, 3 board rounds, 6 minutes per board. That is a challenging pace that requires the utmost concentration and focus. The only rest time is when my partner is declarer and I can just watch the play. BBO has helped me learn better ways to focus, and I think that will help me when we finally return to club games.

When getting started on BBO, I played a lot of the free 4-game Solitaire games. That helped me a lot with the problem areas I noted above and made me a lot more comfortable and confident when I started playing in tournaments. The only problem with these games is the robot who was my partner needs some help with their bidding. If I even hinted we a minor suit fit, I would end up in 5C or 5D, and if I ever did a control bid, the robot would always put me in 6X. Very frustrating, but I guess it is good practice - sometimes you need to figure out how to make an unmakeable contract.

Ron Adams—*I have enjoyed playing online and have not encountered any problems. BBO support for our local clubs will help them stay afloat, if we each play our regular schedule.*

Reece Schuler - *The pandemic and the sheltering at home has made me do something that I never thought I would do; play bridge online. For me Bridge has primarily been a social event, a chance to get out of the house and play cards with some like minded people. It was a chance to go have a banter with a few people, meet some new people and do something that was engaging and competitive. I knew that other people played online, but that was never going to happen with me; that was a bit too.... something. But now I play bridge online about 5 times a week. My wife and I play with other couples during the evening, or we play with the virtual club. The game we play is essentially the same, but the manner in which we play it is very different.*

Now instead of driving to the club, having lunch and chatting with friends, we wander into the front room and log onto our computers a few minutes before the game. Instead of getting a board and sorting the cards, we wait until the magical moment when a slew of cards is splashed across the screen. Instead of sorting and counting, and getting the tactile feel of the cards, we stare at the screen and sort the suits mentally. Instead of watching the facial expressions of our opponents and asking about their grandkids, we stare at a computer screen and wait while someone grinds out the bid.

The game is basically the same, and there are a few limitations, but the biggest benefit is that we can still do safely what we enjoy—BRIDGE- while being shutdown. We can enjoy our hobby in a limited fashion.

The other big win, is that now when you are dummy, you can watch your partner play their hand. The biggest loss is that when you are playing your hand, your partner can now see you play the hand. Not always such a good thing. Thanks, and see you online.

Linda Whipple -*Have played online several times now. I think BBO is very user friendly. You do have to play to the clock though because if you have not finished a board when the clock runs out, play moves on to the next round and to a new board. I hear that a lot of people are reluctant to play online for fear they will "mess up". My advice to those would be to join BBO and practice in some games with Robots until they feel comfortable with playing online with their partner.*

...And I know when I mess up" I have a username instead of my real name being exposed. When I make a bad bid or bad play, no one will ever know who Gram D D really is! Oops! Think I just made another mistake!

Jo Bays—*I have been a long time player on BBO, so I did not find any difficulties in playing with our group in The Bridge Academy and TBC. Being able to play the game like this with bridge buddies during the pandemic has been an absolute lifesaver. The virtual bridge club game brings us together for a short time, giving us a modicum of camaraderie that we have sorely missed during these "sheltered" times. The alternative would have*



been to try and teach the game to Toby, my Bichon extraordinaire, but his fee per game of two cookies was demanding way too much, not to mention his

problem with learning New Minor Forcing. Hope to see you all soon.

Barbara Haskell—

I have enjoyed playing on BBO. It's nice to be able to play, and interact online with our bridge friends. I'm also glad that we are able to support our clubs during these difficult times.

I am frustrated by the positioning of the seats. When we review the hands in history, North/South and East/West are always oriented the same way. That's what we are accustomed to, but many times they are different when playing the hands. Most bothersome is when North/South is oriented horizontally. I know others have the same concerns.

Although we are all anxious to get back to our "real bridge clubs," there are many good facets about online play. The one negative that we can all do something about is slow play. We are held to the clock much more when we are online, and we all need to do our part to be fair. It is not fair for one person to take 80% of the time for a difficult or impossible task, and leave no time for others who may have a good hand on the last deal of the round. Please be mindful of "your share" of the minutes allotted for each round. Enjoy!

Kaylena Mc aka Kay Joyce

Phil Erlenbach—

I like playing online because not only is it fun, it's inexpensive, you don't have to move if you are e/w, and depending on the time of day (or not) you can have an adult beverage of your choice. And on top of these benefits, you can play in your jammies and no one will know...long live BBO!!

Diane Bastian—*I am grateful that we can play bridge online so we stay connected to our partners and continue to enjoy the game. The biggest plus is the ability to totally concentrate on the hands without any distractions. Joe and I are playing social bridge online several days a week at a casual table then "meeting up" with our opponents for cocktails via Face Time. The daily practice hands are a bonus because they are free and do challenge you to make the contract for twenty-five boards. However, I can't wait to get back to our club games and be with all of our bride friends and family and just be social once again.*

Joanna Pagano —*I like it! I do like the fact that you can be home, sign up to play in a game, and just wait for it to start! I've only played in 18 board games, so, it goes fast and you still have time to do other things. Once you get the hang of alerting your own bids, it's pretty seamless. Plus, you don't have to take the time to drive anywhere! I do miss the social interaction that you get at the Club, but, this is a nice alternative!*

Reece Schuler—(2 weeks later)

Another thought on online bridge.... assume most players already know this but I saw the best feature on bridgeable the other day. I went back to a hand that I played and after selecting the hand I saw that by pressing the buttons at the bottom that I could replay the hand. but more amazing was that by looking at other tables I could see how other tables played it. This was great because I could see what other people did to make it, or allow other people to make it. This can be very helpful.

Debbie Sears—

A couple of things come to mind when playing with the robot.....

- 1) how quickly the tricks move. I often find myself saying "What just happened?"*
- 2) I have learned NOT to give the robot much encouragement unless I have a huge hand. I cannot tell you how many times it has put me in 7 something, missing two aces. or I double 2 diamonds and he passes.*

Deanna Larus— *I am so enjoying playing against and with friends on BBO. It makes my day to greet all of my friends there. In fact, as of now the only thing on my daily calendar other than birthdays, is my weekly schedule of BBO games with favorite partners. I would be happy to work with anyone who would like to learn to use BBO to play in the club games. Feel free to contact me for help. With just a little patience and practice we can all continue to enjoy our game. The biggest challenge that I have found is learning and remembering to self-alert bids within the bidding box itself and not in the chat box!*

Ed Fuller—Why I enjoy online bridge.

With the stay at home directive, I initially resisted playing online. It just didn't seem a good substitute for playing at the table with the so many wonderful friends I have meet since moving back to North Carolina. Mind you, I have been a BBO member since 2012, although I've never played on BBO until now, and had played online bridge in the early 1990's. Back then there were no visuals, just a screen or text. A typical screen is appended below, showing the bidding and result. Back to today. Once I started playing on BBO, I really enjoy it. Probably the three things that I enjoy most are (i) playing with previous partners from other parts of the country, (ii) playing in a club game, an online tournament, or just a causal game with friends, and (iii) watching how my partner plays a hand as dummy.

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OKBRIDGE 1.8I OBSERVER
MP-1 NC 111          song  S KT5      1 --          TRICKS    5      8
                   H JT643     2 --          VUL      NC      NO
DEALER: diye        D T6432     3 --          TOTAL  54.55  45.45
4H-X BY Dee        C           4 X          MP       100    0.00
                   -----
                   *Dee
                   |           |           |           |
1 1C      5 --   S 8      |           |           |           |
2 2H      H AK72   |           |           |           |
3 3D      D AQJ8   |           |           |           |
4 4H      C A432   |           |           |           |
                   -----
                   diye  S AJ93     1 --   5 --
                   H Q      2 --
                   D K975   3 --
                   C JT96   4 --
PLAY
                   8:28
  
```

Henry Meguid—

I received some funny TD calls:

1. Director, my partner is frozen, well it was that person's turn to bid
2. Director, the opponents revoked
3. Where is my bidding box
4. I cannot bid 1 H, I am frozen. RHO bid 1 S
5. I cannot register, oops I don't have BBO\$
6. How do I know it's my turn to play
7. I invited my partner but she is not accepting. Partner was not online.



Sadly, our unit lost two members in March—**Ginny Butchko (left)** and **Marianna Jaeger** (friend of Unit 191 and bridge partner of Diana Spock).

GOOD NEWS!

Ken Dye is now home from rehab and recuperation from his injury.

He and Betsy are enjoying club games online.

The Bridge Academy



Have fun, Play better

www.bridgeacademync.com



Dear Bridge Community,

First, let me just say, thank you!

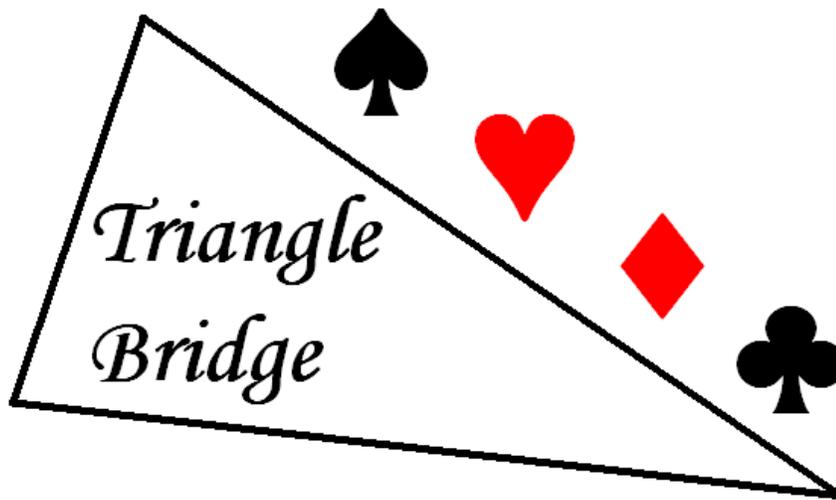
This month, because of your generous donations and support, I am hopeful that The Bridge Academy will be able to survive the COVID storm.

These are challenging times. As a small business owner, the 'stay at home order' posed an overwhelming challenge. Your gifts made it possible to keep the Bridge Academy doors open - - empty for now, but open! Since we temporarily closed on March 15th, we have successfully transitioned to an online bridge community. I have been so fortunate to be able to continue teaching and offering games at different levels.

Please know how very much I appreciate your generous gift to the Bridge Academy and the support from Deanna and the Bright Leaf Board in sponsoring this campaign. It is my sincere hope that one day soon we will be able to again enjoy our bridge community face to face!

Stay safe and healthy,

Henry



TRIANGLE BRIDGE CLUB

APRIL 2020

The changes in our lives caused by COVID-19 have overtaken every thought in my heart and head.

Friends and family matter more than ever.

I am personally overwhelmed by the love and support I have received via the hundreds of people who have contributed to fundraising efforts and attend our daily online games. I can't thank you enough.

Please call or text me directly for BBO assistance (504) 495-7485. Just recently ACBL added a 50% bonus for playing in online virtual club games.....you can see the upgraded masterpoints at live.acbl.org.

As you can see, I already bought my face mask and I expect we will all be wearing them at the bridge table for a while. Social distancing will be our new normal as we navigate around the club. Washing our hands, gloves, and hand sanitizer will likely be required.

Please continue to get the latest updates at:

www.trianglebridgclub.net

As always, I look forward to our next live face to face games but meanwhile.....

STAY HAPPY AND BE SAFE

Chris

SENT IN BY ED FULLER

RELAX



— to work harder

WAR IS NO FUN—but recreation is a vital part of it! For without refreshing relaxation, neither the boys in the fighting services—nor the folks on the home front can keep their keenness . . . their will to win.

Recreation is precious now. There's so much to do—so little time to rest up between tasks.

In times like these, the amusement found in a game of cards truly is a wonderful thing. When you relax over a game with those nice neighbors of yours—or play solitaire all by yourself, you re-

charge your energy—and lend a hand to the war effort, too. For no expensive equipment is needed—there's no traveling to do. You save tires and gas . . . build up your War Bond budget.

. . .

SMALL WONDER, THEN, that four-fifths of your fellow Americans are refreshing themselves with card games for recreation—the inexpensive kind of recreation we need for VICTORY.

THE UNITED STATES PLAYING CARD CO., CINCINNATI, OHIO
Makers of BICYCLE and CONGRESS playing cards

*83% of the people of this nation turn to
card playing for inexpensive recreation*