

UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

JUNE 2020

Hi all!

It has been almost three months since we have been isolating ourselves from others due to the coronavirus pandemic. That means three months since we have gathered together to play the game that we love while smiling and laughing and teasing each other. However, thanks to BBO and the ACBL – many of us are still playing bridge. Some of us more than ever! Many of us play solo – like playing solitaire. We join online casual tables to play a few hands over cocktails and snacks. Competitive people that we are, we played at an online ACBL regional tournament. We play in fundraising games that support our local clubs. We play speedball – very fast 12 board games completed in an hour where you barely have time to think between hands. We play against robots and unknown players from all over the world. But most importantly, at the end of March, **Chris Moll and Henry Meguid** took their bridge clubs online. Now we have daily virtual Open and limited club games with directors and players that we know from our clubs. In fact, since the end March our two local clubs are averaging at least 100 tables of online bridge per week (combined). Most recently, the ACBL and BBO have offered Silver Linings Games which award bonus silver masterpoints to winners. Those games have had even higher table counts than previous weeks. I love being able to play despite being housebound. It is great fun to chat between rounds with the people that we are used to seeing a couple of times a week. Just this week, I “saw” **Ruth Ann Schwenke, Howard Su** and even **Frank Hund** (who moved to Texas) in online games. Even **Pearl Schechter**, at 101 years of age, is learning to play on BBO and she didn’t even have a computer available until recently. BBO games allow us to play the game we love, help us support our local clubs and more importantly, keep us connected with our friends. I am so thankful that we have such opportunities.

Our Unit 191 Fundraiser has been tremendously successful as we are able to help our local clubs cover some expenses during their shutdown. Right now, we are pausing our fundraising efforts to evaluate the needs for the future. Hopefully, our in-person games will resume as things return to normal – but right now we continue to be able to help The Bridge Academy and Triangle Bridge Club. Thank you for participating. We will keep you informed about any future needs.

Take care – “See” you at the bridge table!

Deanna Larus

Unit 191 President

BLASS WINNER OF THE ALT IV

Josef Blass, Jacek Kalita, **Jacek Pzszcola**, Sjoert Brink, Michal Nowosadzki and Bas Drijver won the fourth edition of the Alt Invitational after defeating Paul Street's team (Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtmann, Piotr Zatorski, Kamel Fergani and Fred Pollack) who won the round robin, Blass finishing fourth. The Blass Team won by a score of 84-56.

As always, knockout matches are unpredictable, which is also why we love them. Already on Monday our first Alt Mixed Teams begins, running till Friday. Who will make the top-4? Will Thomas and Irene still be engaged after playing with each other? Don't miss the action. Pre-bulletin will be released before the event. Join us on our new Facebook-group Alt Invitational for news, links and videos.

Massacre before midnight Thus far the Alt Mixed Teams has been a close affair, where most matches had no clear favourites. The semifinals appeared equally unpredictable. And they were, but not the way we imagined. The ever so well performing French Mangoes got decapitated and were down 94-0 at the halfway mark after 12 boards. To their credit they kept fighting and picked up 25 IMPs in the second half. In our other match Donner set off with a blast, leading 30-0 (though Pepsi had a C/O of 10.1 IMPs as winners of the RR). Then Pepsi did a Meltzer and struck back with 90 IMPs in a row, and though Donner picked up 13 at the end, the defeat was clear. Today's final is between Pepsi and Meltzer. 36 boards - let's see if they can keep up the entertainment!

Pepsi Prevailed In a close final Team Pepsi (Pepsi, May Sakr, Dominik Filipowicz, Danuta Kazmucha, Anna Gulevich, Andrey Gromov) defeated Meltzer (**Rose Meltzer**, Nik Demirev, Sylvie Willard, Marc Bompis, Benedicte Cronier, Michel Abecassis) by 13 IMPs after the 36-board final. Well done to both teams for reaching the final in this star-studded mixed event. We are happy for the interest surrounding the tournament and for the display of good bridge. As a regular kibitzer wrote in a private message: "It is some good bridge to watch in this event". The eight teams for the next Alt Mixed teams are ready with both new and familiar (nick)names. It has been a pleasure, thank you all for watching or playing and see you back for the Alt Invitational V next week!

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has three members from the Board, **Marian Meyer, Hugon Karwowski, and Chris Moll**. We will be working with the President of the Board to select the two “at large” members from Unit 191. The Nominating Committee will work to fill the number of established vacancies at that time. Due to a change in the by laws enacted at the 2019 annual meeting, we will publish Article IX titled Nominations and Elections in the Alert to familiarize all members of the changes.

Additional nominations by members of the Unit can now be made by signed petition of nineteen members and written agreement to serve by the nominated member. These nominations must reach the chair of the nominating committee no later than 2 months before the annual meeting.

The names of all nominees from the committee will be published 3 months prior to the annual meeting.

The names, photographs, and biographical information of each candidate shall be published 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Ed Fuller has graciously agreed to manage the on line voting again. Paper ballots will once again be available from Marian Meyer for anyone who cannot vote on line. On line and manual voting must be completed one week prior to the annual meeting, then paper ballots will be counted by two members of the nominating committee and added to the electronic votes.

Last year we had only one fouled ballot (someone voted twice). Last year we canceled the second vote. If it happens this year, both will be disqualified. Please vote only one time. We can do this right. Like Yogi, we are all smarter than the average bear!

New Board members will be announced at the annual meeting.

BRIDGE TRIVIA

1. This tennis star uses bridge games as opportunities for relaxation. When she travels, she likes to find nearby bridge clubs and join in. She once said, “No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table.

2. This famous cartoonist was an avid bridge player who often depicted bridge players in his comic strips. One of his characters was named an honorary Life Master by the ACBL.

3. This actor is perhaps better known as a bridge player than as a thespian. Author of many bridge books, he also writes a popular newspaper column of bridge problems. Who is this star of “Dr. Zhivago” and “Lawrence of Arabia”?

4. This basketball star was called “the biggest, tallest bridge player I have ever seen” by Jeff Goldsmith, a Cal Tech professor, who faced him at his first bridge tournament.

5. This late comedian was an avid bridge player. For several decades, he played daily at the Hillcrest Country Club. He said, “Bridge is a game that separates the men from the boys. It also separates husbands and wives.”

6. This Supreme Court justice likes to play bridge in a suit and bow tie.

7. From 1965-1970, this actor played the inept Agent 86 in “Get Smart”. His role as a bridge is less well-known although from the 1990’s onwards he ran frequent games at the Playboy Mansion. (yes, Hugh Hefner plays bridge too!). Who is he?

(Answers on back page)

ALERTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS on BBO

Submitted by *Donna Walther*

There has been some confusion about required or optional alerts and announcements on BBO (BridgeBase Online). The most talked about question relates to announcing the point count for 1NT opener. I have been gathering whatever information I can about this topic and will attempt to clarify the rules. Keep in mind, I am not an expert at BBO, just learning like the rest of us.

The BBO guidelines do not spell out what alerts/announcements are required and what are not. According to Chris and Henry, for all ACBL games on BBO, as well as the virtual games in USA, (which are also ACBL games), all alerts/announcements required at physical bridge clubs also apply at these games. However, the director of games on BBO, including the virtual games, starts the game with a welcome statement that can, and often does, specify that opening 1NT with 15 to 17 points, need not be announced during the session. However any other point count for 1NT opening is required to be announced. My advice here is to read the welcome statement and abide by what is or is not stated about alerting/announcing.

For beginners and those players still unsure of the method of pre-alerting in BBO, some guidelines follow. There is also a really nice write up on the Unit 191 web site, found directly below the information about the coronavirus news. My information that follows expands on what is in that write-up.

1. **First and foremost, NEVER alert to the TABLE via the chat capability.** Your partner must not see your alert.
2. **Announcements are made by the player making the bid.** Use the alert button, then describe the announcement. Example: forcing, or 15-17 points.
3. **Alerts in live games are stated as such by the partner of the bidder and not defined unless asked.** In BBO games, the player making the bid uses the alert button to describe the meaning of the bid, not just saying "alert". Example: do not say "inverted minor". Describe what it means, such as "length in minor, game force," or "length in minor, 10+".
4. **If an opponent asks you for an explanation, use the box that shows up on your screen to an answer.** If they ask via a chat, be sure you answer only to your opponents, not the table. See number 1 above.
5. **If you forget to alert before your bid is made, there are 2 ways to correct it.** You can click on your own bid, then type the alert in the box that appears. Or you can send a message in the chat area to the opponents only, not the table. Again, see number 1 above.

PAT LIVERS



Pat Livers, 81, of Chapel Hill passed away on May 16. There will be no arrangements and burial will be out of state.

Comments from her partners:

Pat Bodoh—“Pat was a delightful partner, one with always a smile on her face along with a kind word for all. She was a great mentor who shared her bridge knowledge with those wanting to learn more about the game.”

Valerie Roberts—“I always looked forward to playing with Pat because (like me) she so freely gave her opinion on whatever the topic happened to be. We usually agreed on politics and had similar philosophical beliefs, but when it came to bridge I was surprised by Pat’s opinions. I found our discussions fun and thoughtful rather than demeaning and argumentative. One highlight was the day Pat and I won the Susan Torrey Memorial Game. We had spent most of that day debating some convention or discard so doing that well was a delightful surprise. I miss Pat as a partner as well as a friend.”

Claire Sobel—“When she had her first heart attack she called me from the emergency room to break our date. She was raised on Long Island, NY, but lived in Texas, Indiana, etc.”

Blanche Tremblay— “I have played with Pat since I first arrived. She was a wonderful bridge player and was at her best while playing the hand. I never talk politics, so lately, the last six or seven years, it’s only been bridge, kids, travel, and unfortunately, health, which gave us a lot to talk about.”

Barbara Martin— “I never had the pleasure of playing bridge with Pat. In a discussion we had one day, I learned she was the President of her bridge unit in Texas, and also a director. In that same discussion, we discovered we both played the trombone in our high school marching bands—Pat’s high school was invited to march in the Thanksgiving Macy’s Day in New York City. I am sorry to say our band never received such an honorable invitation.”

Pat was a fierce competitor at the tables—we will miss her.

MARC GOLDBERG

What a daunting task. You asked me to write a “short” biography for the Alert. Once you become a “seasoned citizen,” it is hard to put together anything shorter than a book. But here goes.

I grew up in Harrisburg, PA and, after high school, was very fortunate to win an appointment to the US Naval Academy. That may sound prestigious, but remember that 1969 was the peak of the anti-war protests, and anyone associated with the military was pretty much a pariah. When Midshipmen were granted liberty to go out into Annapolis, we had to wear civilian clothes (we were pretty easy to pick out anyway- our short haircuts gave us away).



After being commissioned in the Navy, Suzie and I married. She also grew up in Harrisburg, and though we weren't childhood sweethearts, we were best of friends (and still are). My Navy career took us on a 27-year adventure, moving 13 times, and living in 11 different locations. Along the way, we collected 3 sons (and now two daughters-in law and two granddaughters), numerous friends in all parts of the country, and a zillion memories.

Military careers are difficult for families, and mine was not any easier than any other. Fortunately, I had an independent and capable partner who could keep the home front running while I was away on deployments. I served on five different nuclear submarines and was the Commanding Officer of two of them (the attack submarine USS Newport News and the ballistic missile submarine USS Alaska). I also had some extraordinary shore assignments, including two Pentagon assignments on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of Defense, and ending as Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC Unit at Penn State.

Following the Navy, I transitioned back to civilian life with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I worked for the Department of Corrections as the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

I had never played bridge during my Navy years. It may have been a popular game on some ships, but not submarines. Our frequent game was cribbage- probably because it was easy to learn and quick to play (Captain: Hey Ensign, are you doing anything? Ensign: No Sir! Captain: Well sit down and deal. Ensign- Aye -Aye, Sir!). And if the general alarm sounded, no one really cared where you were in the game or what the score was.

When I retired from the prison system, Suzie had already been playing bridge for several years and loved the game. She convinced me to give it a try, and I joined a bridge class led by a patient and talented bridge teacher. I slowly made my way through the basic bridge classes and began playing in the teacher's games, the 0-20 games, the 0-50 games, and (gasp!) the 0-499er games. Since I had never played bridge before, it was definitely a learning experience- it helped a lot to have an experienced player in the house to help me understand things.

My classmates in our basic bridge classes were a close-knit group, and we progressed together as our bridge skills improved. At some point, we decided we wanted to learn Two Over One, but we were stuck. Our original bridge teacher focused on basic bridge and had no desire to teach more advanced topics. While our club had many advanced players, none had any interest in teaching us. So we decided to tackle it on our own. I had a lot of teaching experience in my professional career, so I took on the task of learning Two Over One, developing lesson plans, and putting together a course for our group of up and coming players.

That began my bridge-teaching career, and I developed many follow-on classes and workshops for our club. When I became certified through the ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program, my instructor was Pat Harrington, a nationally known bridge educator. I learned a great deal from Pat and bought a license to teach her classes in advanced bidding, declarer play, and defense. The Harrisburg Bridge Club was a member-owned and member-run club. I became the training coordinator and planned out our sequence of bridge classes, workshops for all levels of players, and mini-lessons before bridge games. We had the best training program of any club in our Unit.

I like the game of bridge and the people who play it. I enjoy the competition and the challenge. Nothing beats the feeling when you get a good board against opponents who are more experienced and skilled. I like to give back to the bridge community whenever I can, be it through teaching, playing in tournaments, or helping with club and Unit activities. I am currently the webmaster for Unit 191 and work to keep the website up to date and informative.

As much as I like bridge, I do have some other interests that keep me busy. One of my hobbies is woodworking, and I have a large lathe in my shop where I make a wide variety of bowls, vases, pens, peppermills, and other turned work. I have been turning wood for over 20 years, and (in my humble opinion) my work is very good. I love to give tours of my studio, and I hope I can have visitors again when our isolation has ended. I am the ultimate wood recycler. Whenever a big tree comes down in a storm, I am out with my chainsaw cutting up stock for future bowls. My shop is the Riverside Bowl Studio, <http://riversidebowls.com/>.



My other hobby is big game hunting. I have hunted in many of the western states, Canada, and Mexico and have several trophies in the record books. My preferred hunting style is archery—that is the most challenging method, and it demands continuous practice throughout the year to keep my skills sharp. I manage my farm nearby in Granville County and work throughout the year to improve the environment and habitat for wildlife. We usually have a freezer full of venison—that has come in mighty handy as we experience some meat shortages in the grocery stores during the virus isolation. If the apocalypse ever comes (who knows— we may be close), you can always find a good meal at our house.

BALANCING: EXAMINE YOUR OPBECTIVE

By *Randy Joyce*

The art of balancing is an oft misunderstood and misused part of bridge dogma. Bridge theorists recommend that whenever the opponents have settled in a low level part score contract, you should balance to push them one trick higher so that you will have an easier time trying to defeat their bid.

This is the recommended action on hands where the opponents have found a fit and settle at a low level. However, I see more and more opponents floundering in an inferior contract only to be rescued by the intrepid balancer to a better strain or even to a makeable game. Bridge players have come to rely on their opponent's balance to help them improve their bidding!

The following is an example of what I consider the "always balance at any cost" mentality. I held the following hand in National IMP Pairs: **S Axxxx, H Kxx, D QJxx, C K**. At favorable vulnerability the bidding went 1 Diamond, Pass, Pass to me. It looked like a clear cut 1 Spade bid. **WRONG!!!!** The bidding luckily went 2 Clubs, Pass, Pass back to me. I passed.

I would rather have defended 1 Diamond where I had 4 nice trumps than 2 Clubs where I only had one trump, but I could begin to see the handwriting on the wall. In 1 Diamond, the opponents could take 7 tricks for +70. In Clubs, the opponents could take 12!!! Tricks, for potentially +1370. A rather big difference in IMP scoring.

Declarer slightly mistimed the play and only made five, so his score of +150 was only somewhat better than the one he could have achieved at 1 Diamond. Oh, did I mention that the opponents are also cold for four hearts? I'm glad that they didn't find that either.

Surely some hands are worthy of a balance. O feel that the best action on most hands is to take a slightly light initial action over the staid pass and balance. The hands that seem worthy of a balance are the ones that you hold some strength in the opponents' suit and enough overall defense that you can reasonably expect to defeat the opponents' higher contract. If you push the opponents' to a game and have nothing to beat them, you have not done a very effective job.

I also held the following hand at the same tournament: **S AKTx, H T9xxx, D x, and C Axx**. With both sides vulnerable, the bidding proceeded: 1 Spade on my right, Pass by me, 2 Spades on my left, P, P back to me. I balanced with 3 Hearts. The bidding now went Pass, Pass, 3 Spades on my right. It looked as if the opponents would go down due to the bad splits; furthermore, they might be going down several tricks.

"Double" said I.

Plus 800 later, I was rewarded for my intrepid balance. I would probably have made 3 Hearts if left to play there.

In closing, do not balance just because the opponents have stopped at a low level. If you have no defense for a higher level contract, let the opponents play where they like. Balance when you have some surprises for the opponents. Balancing with length in the opponents suit can lead to some juicy penalties. But be forewarned, when the opponents don't take the push, you might end up in some ugly spots.

Bridge Base Online is Growing On Me

By Marc Goldberg

When we transitioned to “coronavirus house arrest,” many of us explored BBO to keep our bridge minds active until some future time where we could return to our favorite bridge clubs. At first, I found BBO a bit confusing, and I expressed some of my frustrations in the May Alert. Although it was bridge, I felt BBO was not as good as playing at a club because we couldn’t see our friends and chat about our lives. But BBO is growing on me, and I am finding I like it more every time I play. Here are a few observations:

- Playing on BBO is very comfortable. I sit on my favorite chair. I can wear whatever I want - sweatpants, tank top, bathrobe, whatever. The lighting is good and the temperature is always “just right”- I never complain that the room is too hot or too cold.
- The BBO cards are always clean. I have never gotten a hand with food smudges or sticky stuff on the cards.
- The playing environment is definitely healthier - no one is coughing or sneezing in the room or at my table.
- My BBO cards always come pre-sorted, and I never have to write anything in my personal score card. That saves time which gives me more time to focus on the hand.
- Since I control my computer monitor, I can make the cards in my browser as big or as small as I want. I can play bridge without my reading glasses and never mix in a club with my spades. I can choose whether the card sounds are “on” or “off.”
- Opponents can’t “peek” at my hand when I let my guard down. My partner sometimes has to remind me to hold my cards back.
- The timing of the game means something. If a BBO tournament game is scheduled to start at 12:30, it usually starts within a minute or two of the time. If a 3-board round is scheduled to take 21 minutes, that’s all we get.

Incomplete boards go away and the director adjusts the score as appropriate. There is no waiting to get started on the next round and experience frustration from losing “our” minutes while the table behind us takes extra time to finish the previous round.

- BBO saves me about an hour commute each time I play a game. It also saves me several gallons of gas a week- good for the environment and good for my sanity by avoiding rush hour traffic.
- The BBO computer almost makes director calls unnecessary. In a BBO game, the system is smart enough to keep me from doing dumb things.
 - I can’t bid out of turn.
 - I can’t make an insufficient bid.
 - I can’t lead out of turn or play out of turn.
 - I can’t revoke.
 - I can’t have a penalty card on the table by dropping a card, pulling two cards, or correcting a mis-played card.
- BBO settings help me prevent erroneous clicks on bids or cards played. In a tournament, you can’t undo a bid made or a card played. To prevent an error, I can change my BBO settings to “confirm bids” and “confirm cards.” Then, when I click on the bid or on a card, I must click it again and can correct it if I first clicked the wrong thing.

Someday, we will be returning to the clubs to play bridge, and we will all be grateful to end our isolation. I, for one, will miss many of the good features I have learned to like about BBO.



Help us earn an additional \$5,000!!!

Many of you will remember hearing about Lakewood Elementary as Darlene Bates was a teacher there for many years.

I want to make you aware that we have many Lakewood Elementary school families that are suffering tremendously during this pandemic. Many are workers that have been furloughed from their low paying jobs in the service sector.

The teachers and staff are working hard every day to assist the families. A staff member speaks with each family every week to assess their immediate needs due to COVID-19. We have a list of a little over 80 families, most of whom listed their top needs as paying rent and bills. Most of the families do not qualify for stimulus or unemployment checks and are extremely stressed, and experts have said that likely 42% of the former jobs will not return.

I thought food would be a top priority, but I am told these families are not going hungry. Our local community has really stepped up and now has lots of food pantries that are filling these needs as well as DPS Foundation which is delivering food to the families each week. We are grateful for this.

I am sure you have heard that there is a moratorium on evictions, but don't be fooled. No one has promised to forgive late payments. It looks as if these families will be hit with past rent and utility payments once this is over, adding even more stress to their lives.

After a lot of conversations and deliberation, a group of Lakewood staff decided to launch an emergency relief fundraiser to see if we can provide some assistance to these families before June rent and bills come around. We set a very ambitious goal of raising \$30,000. [Today we are at \\$33,600.](#) With this success, we have raised the goal to \$40,000 and will be given a challenge gift of \$5,000 if we hit the \$40,000 mark!

Can you imagine not having a single \$1 coming into your family.....no money for electric? Or water? Or hygiene products? The stress this causes is almost unbearable.

Especially if you received a stimulus check, I hope you will consider contributing to this campaign. The teachers have often stepped up and helped families in crisis. This is part of what I love about the Lakewood Community. You may donate to this initiative by hitting control and clicking on the following link :

<https://mailchi.mp/7cbb01fc0b6f/covid-19-update-2-how-you-can-help?e=128ac073b9>

(continued)

By the way, on your statement, it will show payment to Kelly Shearon, Lakewood's 5th grade teacher.

If you prefer to send a check, please make the check payable to Kelly Shearon and send to her at:

**Kelly Shearon
306 Northcliff Drive
Durham, NC 27712**

The PayPal gifts are not tax-deductible, but in the link there is an explanation as to how to make your gift tax-deductible.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thanks ever so much!

Debbie Sears

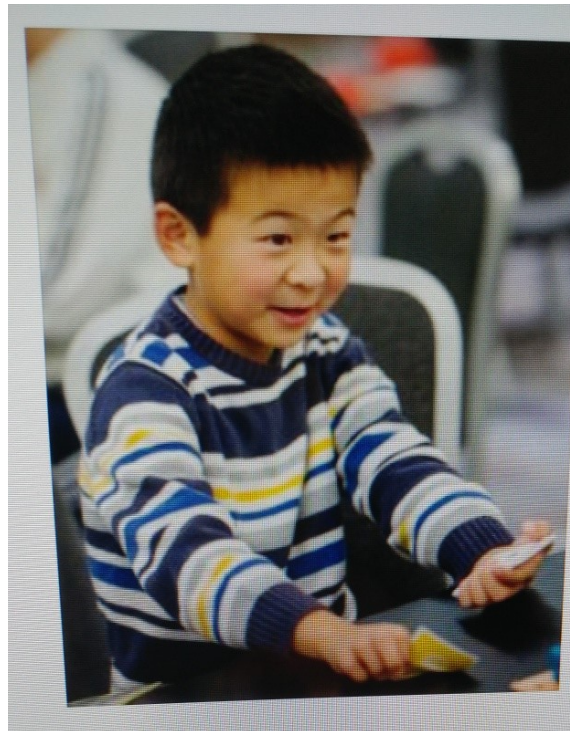
231-330-8964 cell

Debbie4705@gmail.com

P.S. Apologies to Debbie—the hyperlink doesn't want to work in the system used for the Alert, which is Publisher. Please contact Debbie for more information. You may access the site by typing in the information.

As many of us are aware, Debbie and Mike lead the program at Christmas to make sure children in this school receive gifts at the holiday. This would be a good way to help those in need with the assurance that you know how your donation is being used.

ANDREW CHEN



Andrew Chen of San Jose CA became the youngest Life Master ever on May 27, just three days after turning 8. He broke the record held by Zach Garrison by more than a year. That record was set in 2012, shortly before Andrew was born.

Andrew was the 2019 Rookie of the Year, winning the Mini-McKenney for the 0 to 5 bracket. He joined the ACBL in late 2018 after attending a Silicon Valley Youth Bridge pizza party out of curiosity.

Andrew had a busy month, earning more than 35 master points in the three weeks before making Life Master. Those include 10.32 silver points from virtual clubs games held during Silver Linings Week, 1.05 black points, 10.23 other online points and 14 points from the District 21 Grand National Teams.

As of the last cycle, he need 28.3 points including 8.64 silver. On Wednesday, May 27th, he was down to just 0.12 silver. He played in the virtual club game hosted by Think Slam in Palo Alto, picking up 1.8 silver.

LILA'S THOUGHT ON THE VIRUS..

Hello from the Berry Bush B&B. I'm enjoying an extended vacation from my busy life of competitive bridge and fine dining. There's no need now to set the alarm, I just roll out of bed, jump into some sweats, brew myself a cup of coffee and savor one of my home made bran muffins.

Ah yes! I'm living the Life of Riley. Lazing around relaxing on my front porch - reading and doing crossword puzzles. Oh—I do move around a bit taking leisurely walks around the neighborhood. You ask, do I have a social life?

Yes, of course. I hit the road to the super market where on the way there's nary a car or person in sight. What luck!! Plenty of parking space right out front. I don my mask and gloves, pocket my sanitizer and in I go.

Another adventure ahead of me. I head straight for the toilet paper aisle saying a little prayer on the way. As I turn into the aisle what to my wondering eyes does appear—twelve rolls of toilet paper - I let out a cheer. There's no one to share my joy in the aisle, or even a wave or a smile.

Finding no long lines at the register, I almost feel sad. Just a few months ago, I would have been so glad. Have to keep up my spirits now, don't let myself down, though things are so barren with no folks around. I'll have a big dish of ice cream when I get home, and call up some friends on my telephone.



I look back at my life the way that it was, before everything changed and we had to hit pause. Then I had to set the alarm and jump out of bed, shower, exercise, and get myself fed. Brush teeth and hair, add makeup to wrinkles, a little mascara to make my eyes twinkle.

I'm off to the closets to decide what to wear, clocks ticking away now, no time to spare. Now I pat the dog and give her a treat, lots of traffic out there on the street. There are twenty two red lights, I know cause I've counted, while trying to beat them the tension has mounted.

Speaking of traffic, if you think going is busy, the trip home is worse and I'm all in a tizzy. Add another five or ten minutes because the traffic is worse, and hitting detours or accidents adds to the curse.

You ask would I give up my leisurely life for the past, oh yes my dear friend, you betcha sweet ass!!!

Carpe diem,

Lila Berry

Ode to Bridge

I'm giving up bridge—tonight's my last night,
It's Amen to Stayman, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles;
I can't sleep at night for remembering doubles.

What to bid, what to lead, and which cards have
been played?

Did my partner's discard mean she wanted a
spade?

So for now it's all over—I'm off to the backwood,
I'm bidding good riddance to Gerber and Black-
wood.

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain,
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
I'm giving up bridge—tonight's a bad night.,
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.

My partner's quite hopeless but tends to blame me,
When we go down in four and we should be in
three.

And I sit there in dread when I hear her say
"double",
She does it a lot and it always means trouble.

My points are not high, and I'm wondering why,
She keeps on and on bidding right up to the sky;

We're in seven hearts and my nerves are all frayed,
When wonder of wonders—the contract is made!

We've got all the tricks, the defenders look grey,
And I have to admit that my partner's okay.

But...I'm giving up bridge—tonight's my last night,
Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight!

So I end with some words that I know to be true,
Bridge is a game, not for me but for you.

So be kind to your partners, and don't mind their
cheek,

For it's only a game—oh! and see you next week!

Thanks to **Kay Joyce** for sharing this poem—sent to
her by a friend.



Unit 191 Website Update Change to Online Member Directory

The website team has changed access to the Unit 191 online Member Directory. The new **Member List** is now in the "Members Only" section of the website, which is accessible from the Members Only tab on the left-hand side of the Unit 191 website. A member-created password is required to access this section. All Unit 191 members should establish their own password. You can then log on to the Members Only area to access the Member List.

Note! The Unit 191 Member List reflects the information provided by ACBL. It is important that all Unit 191 members ensure the accuracy of their personal information as listed with ACBL. Log on to **ACBL.org** and go to **MyACBL**. Click **Update My Information** to make any necessary changes. For other corrections and additions to the database, including BBO nicknames, contact **Jane Kiernan**, jik2215@gmail.com, (919) 264-0220. Please note that ACBL does not track BBO nicknames. Contact Jane if you have an update for a BBO nickname.

Unit 191 provides this list of member contact information as a courtesy to unit members so they can contact other members to arrange partnerships and teams and to set up and confirm playing schedules. Unauthorized use is prohibited. ‡

For other website issues, please contact **Marc Goldberg**, goldberg73@gmail.com, (717) 712-4446.

‡UNAUTHORIZED USE OF UNIT 191 ONLINE Member List

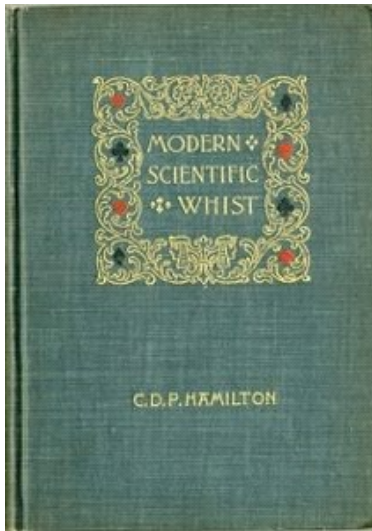
As codified in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, use of ACBL-provided member data for (a) personal use, (b) financial gain

and/or (c) harassment is prohibited. Unit 191 utilizes ACBL-provided data for the Member List posted on the unit's website (unit191bridge.org). Any use of this information by our members should be for purposes related to bridge activities and not for any of the uses enumerated above unless authorized by Unit 191 or by ACBL. Any violation of this provision may constitute a basis for disciplinary action within ACBL guidelines. Please note that Unit 191 has not authorized any use of ACBL-provided data for solicitation of business referrals of any kind and cannot participate in any related profit-sharing arrangement.

BRIDGE TIDBITS

1. Playing cards can be traced back to about 979 A.S. in China, four suits of 14 cards each, although a few authorities favor India as the place of origin. Playing cards first showed up in Europe in Venice, Italy, about 200 years later. There is no concrete information on when the first kibitzers showed up.
2. Chinese playing cards are long and narrow as opposed to the Western versions. One Hindu pack had 144 cards with eight suits of 18 cards each, Imagine the bidding system you would have to develop to play bridge with that deck.
3. Playing cards flourished in the United States by 1800, and by 1900 the United States Playing card Company in Cincinnati was the world's top manufacturer.
4. Despite the contention by some that bridge was invented in an insane asylum in Constantinople in 1870, the game can be traced to its forerunner—whist—in the 16th century. Whist was a partnership game with a trump suit determined by chance.

9. Bridge vocabulary was created by bridge players.



Reality: Whist players in the 1700s and 1800s developed the card-play terminology that bridge players presently use. In whist books published in the 1890s, a reader would find the following terms: convention, coup, cover, cross-ruff, Deschappelles Coup, discard, doubleton, echo, eleven rule, exposed card, false card, finesse, follow suit, force, fourth best, fourth hand, game, guarded, holding up, honors, leading through, negative inference, reverse discard, revoke, rotary discard, rubber, ruffing, second hand, sequence, signal, singleton, sub-echo, tenace, third hand, trick, trumps, unblocking and Yarborough, to name a few!

Answers to Bridge Trivia

1. Martina Navratilova
2. Charles Shultz
3. Omar Sharif
4. Wilt Chamberlain
5. George Burns
6. John Paul Stevens
7. Don Adams



Thanks once more to those members who contributed articles for this issue. It would be impossible to do it without you!!! Life in Unit 191 goes on!

Barbara Martin