

# UNIT 191 BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

AUGUST 2020

From the President.....

Hi fellow Unit 191 friends! As much as we all hate this – the virus is still running rampant in our country and all ACBL bridge games are online. When this started in March, we had hoped to be back playing face to face by now. We are not so fortunate! As of now, all ACBL tournaments are cancelled through the end of 2020. Local clubs are still closed. But Triangle Bridge Club and The Bridge Academy offer daily games for us on BBO and when combined with other bridge game options there, you can actually spend all day playing bridge. In my opinion, it is better than watching daytime television all day while the summer sun heats up our world! This past week, the ACBL ran its second Silver Linings Event for virtual clubs and everyone has enjoyed the opportunity to earn silver points. Bigger games! Silver points! This past month, I played in a team game event through District 7 and had a great time. While we continue to wait, I would like to encourage everyone to help support our Unit 191 clubs by playing in Unit 191 games. Doing so will help TBC and TBA stay afloat until we can return to “normal” bridge. Thanks! Stay healthy!

**Deanna Larus**—President of Unit 191

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# Cheating at Bridge on Bridge Base Online

by Marc Goldberg

I have written several articles for the Alert about many of the good features about Bridge Base Online. BBO has filled an important void during this Covid-19 isolation, and it contains many teaching and learning features to help us become better bridge players. The one problem that BBO has not solved is when pairs choose to flout the rules of bridge and cheat.

In my ten years of playing duplicate bridge, I have seen many director calls for the normal technical problems of bridge play- insufficient bids, penalty cards, failure to alert, etc. But I have never seen a director call where someone at the table has been accused of cheating. At the club, it just doesn't happen much- at least not that I can tell.

That is not to say cheating at bridge is not a problem. Just Google "Cheating At Bridge" and watch some interesting videos of noteworthy cases from the past. In response to cheating, ACBL has established detailed procedures on how games are played at national championship levels. The cover of the recent ACBL "Bridge Bulletin" addresses online cheating. BBO advertises that they have an active program with computer algorithms to detect cheating. These algorithms are working, and they are continually being improved as more cases develop. ACBL and BBO are actively prosecuting cheating issues that are discovered or reported during online games. All of our club managers are keenly aware of this issue and are watchful.

Since we began playing in online virtual club games in March, I have experienced some suspicious bidding or play at least a dozen times. Granted, everyone bids a bit differently, but when I look at the hands after the rounds, I find myself asking, how in the world did the opponents get to that contract? Or, how in the world did they find that "inspired" (and unusual) lead as defenders? If the opponents happen to be a couple, or if the event included a very long pause (long enough for a text message), I start to wonder.

Here is an example of a recent event that I played. This really happened. With both sides vulnerable, **West** held the following hand.



Here is how the bidding proceeded.

(continued)

West	North	East	South
		P	P
2H	X	P	2NT*
3H	X	P	4C
4H	P	P	P

\*alerted as Lebensohl relay

In third seat, **West** preempted with a bid of 2H. Holding six hearts to the Jack is a pretty poor suit to preempt with, and 5 HCPs total is a dangerous opening preempt while vulnerable, especially since partner (**East**) did not even have an opening hand. The most that **East-West** could have is 17 HCPs. If **West** were not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, any preempt in third seat would be a reasonable opening bid. But being vulnerable, **West** has a 9 loser hand, and might only have 4 sure tricks (Ace of spades and 3 hearts). **West** needs a lot of help from partner to stay safe. It is not a bid that many would make, but this 2H preempt could be a legitimate bid for some players.

**North** had a big hand and, playing Lebensohl over 2 level preempts, overcalled with a Double. **East** passed and **South** initiated a Lebensohl relay to 3C by bidding 2NT (this bid was alerted as a Lebensohl relay). Without even knowing what the opponents' long suit was going to be, **West** rebid her suit 3H. Most people, even beginners who have just learned to preempt, are taught that once you preempt, you shut up. Some people do extend their own preempts, but not with a 5-point hand and a poor suit. Maybe you could be excused for rebidding your suit if you had something like KQxxxx in hearts, Axxxx in a side suit, and a void in opponents' suit. But in general, rebidding your preemptive suit is still poor practice, vulnerable or not.

**North** continued to compete with a second Double, **East** passed, and **South** named his long suit, 4C. Even having three quick losers in the opponents' named suit, **West** rebid her 5-point hand for a third time, 4H.

**East** lays down the following dummy. Thank you, Partner!



(continued)

As you can see by looking at both hands, 4H should make. There are no heart losers (unless hearts split 3-0 with the Queen in a bad spot), 1 spade loser, 1 diamond loser, and 1 club loser. If you review the bidding box, you will note that **East did nothing but pass** during the entire auction. I would expect that many players holding the **East** hand would have extended the preempt after **North's** first double by at least bidding 3H. Many would even bid 4H knowing there is a 10 card heart fit (likely no losers in the heart suit) and a singleton. Some players use the "Rule of 17" to bid game over partner's major suit preempts, and you could convince yourself that this hand meets the intent of that rule. Had **East** actually bid 3H or 4H or somehow gotten their side to game, I would have no problem at all with the bidding. The opponents somehow stumbled into an obscure game. It happens- that's bridge.

So how did **West** know to bid 3H after her opening preempt when her partner had passed twice? A good guess? Or did she know her partner had good heart support. How did **West** know to bid 4H after **South** bid his long club suit (and partner had passed a third time)? Another good guess? Or did she know her partner had a singleton club to help her three little losers? How did **West** know that one of the opponents didn't have the hand shown above (down 6 doubled vulnerable is a really big number)? I don't know the answer to these questions, but I do know that my opponents were husband and wife, and it made my blood boil.

I would like to say this is the only time that I have seen this type of blatant questionable bidding, but it is not. I could show you more examples, but I am afraid I might run out of ink.

Coming in first in a bridge game is a special accomplishment, and so is doing well enough to earn some master points in a match. To come in first, everything must come together for our partnership- we bid correctly to get to a good contract, we play our hands well, and we defend well (ok- sometimes getting a gift or two also helps). People notice our win and give us a pat on the back. "Nice game!" But much as I like to win, the real joy is in earning it. What satisfaction is there knowing you cheated to get to the top? (That goes for most things in life, not just bridge).

Someone once described "ethics" as "**what you do when no one is looking.**" When you play bridge on BBO at home, no one is looking. You can probably get away with a lot of stuff. It seems so harmless since no one can tell that you are communicating with your partner. "Lead back a club and I can ruff it." "I don't really have much, so it is probably best to stop in part score." "Which card do I keep at the end, a club or a diamond?"

But it is not harmless. It is cheating. It deprives the opponents of what they legitimately might earn because of your unethical behavior. It besmirches the game that we all love. No one will know you have cheated but you. If you can live with that, fine. That's your ethics. But the rest of us are doing our best to win this game fair and square. Don't take that away from the bridge community.

So what do you do if you run into a situation like the one I described? First, it is important to tell the tournament director about the problem. On BBO, you often do not have much time to address lengthy issues because the boards move quickly. Also, the "chat" area that appears when you call the director does not give you a lot of room to write a long explanation. You might call the director and say something like, "I have a concern about the bidding on board 10 and would like to talk to you after the game." Then, email or call the director to discuss the issue in depth. Sometimes, you may not even discover the issue until well after the game when you are reviewing hands that you played.

(Continued)

When you contact the director, tell him or her what your concern is. It is best not to characterize the issue as cheating unless you actually have proof. Not every strange bid or play is cheating- sometimes players just wing it or take a gamble. Simply report the problem and allow the director to investigate and take whatever action they deem to be appropriate. The director may or may not be able to determine whether cheating has occurred, but at least they will be aware of your concern and be able to monitor the opposing pair for future observation.

I am certainly not suggesting we start a campaign of spying and reporting on each other whenever our opponents give us a bad board. Most of us are friends, and we enjoy friendly and honest competition. But if a blatant cheating issue does arise, you may report the issue to ACBL using a Player Memo. This memo is a confidential report that goes to the Recorder's office for investigation, and it is the formal method of referring an issue to ACBL. Access the Player Memo at <https://www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/player-memo/> or send it by email to [recorder@acbl.org](mailto:recorder@acbl.org). Additionally, you can send an email report to BBO at [abuse@bridgebase.com](mailto:abuse@bridgebase.com).

In closing, please take a look at your phone. If you recognize any of the text messages in the picture to the right, you might have a cheating problem.

4:45 90°

4G LTE 85%



Lead back a club. I can get a ruff.

4:39 PM

I'm raising you just to interfere don't bid again

4:40 PM

I have a really good hand. Bid Blackwood next.

4:41 PM

We can set this if you now come back a diamond

4:43 PM

This is a really weak preempt. Don't go crazy here.

4:44 PM

Bid 3 nt if you can stop spades

4:44 PM



Message input field



# USE JACOBY OR TEXAS?

By Randy Joyce

One of my students asked how to bid the following hand:

S—ATxxxx

H—

D—AQxx

C—Jxx

Their partner opened 1 NT and they transferred with 2 Hearts and their partner bid 2 Spades. What would you bid, they queried? I would bid 4 Spades, I said. This is a mild slam try. If partner has a max and likes their hand, they won't pass. That's what I bid they answered, and partner passed. Partner's hand was:

S—Kxx

H—KQxxx

D—Kx

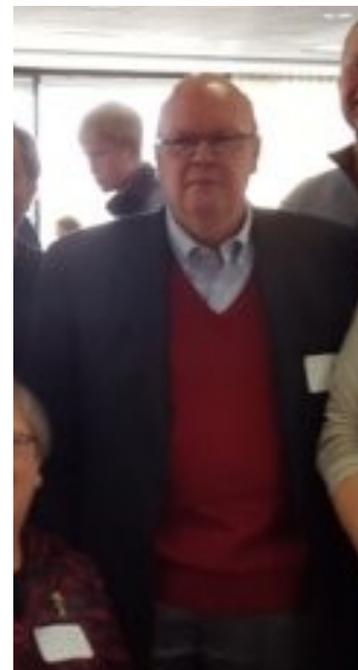
C—AQxx

Why didn't they bid more? Probably because they only thought that you wanted to play game. Jacoby works really well using the following parameters,

Assume all auctions start with 1 NT:

- **Transfer at the two level and raise.....NF and invitational (shows a 6+ card suit)**
- **Transfer and bid 2 NT.....Same except with a 5 card suit**
- **Transfer and bid 3 NT.....choice of games**
- **Texas (transfer at the four level) all hands .....that you want to play game in your suit**
- **Texas (transfer at the four level)..... all**

- **Transfer at the 2 level and bid NT.....Forcing and choice of slams (NT or your 5 card suit)**
- **Transfer at the two level and rebid 4 NT. This is not Blackwood, It is also not forcing if you have a dog. Possible responses are Pass, a signoff in 5 of your major, 6 M or 6 NT.**
- **Transfer at the two level and raise to 4 of your suit, which shows 6+ card suit and a mild slam try. This is one that many beginning players fail to use, because they forget about this meaning.**



(I recently played as a fill in for a couple of round and my partner held a hand that this would have come in useful.)

There are many other treatments about bidding with two suited hands, but we will leave those for a later article.

I hope this clarifies some of your questions about using these valuable tools. If not, ask me when you see me out and about, and I will be glad to give you a short tutorial.

## SECOND QUARTER MINI-MCKENNEY AND ACE OF CLUBS LEADERS IN UNIT 191

### ACE OF CLUBS

<u>0-5</u>	
<b>Nancy Garman</b>	7.53
Jeanne Goodwell	7.53
Anna Stachon	7.09
<u>5-20</u>	
<b>Rich Haney</b>	17.08
Laura Ross	8.01
Catherine Garland	7.81
<u>20-50</u>	
<b>Randy Grigg</b>	20.59
Joanna Karwowska	15.08
Barbara Jerchower	11.22
<u>50-100</u>	
<b>Margaret Smith</b>	17.31
Karen Popovich	11.74
Dan Snedcor	9.55
<u>100-200</u>	
<b>Lori Scanga</b>	63.60
Renee Getz	47.04
Ann Fisher	40.85
<u>200-300</u>	
<b>Mary Ferguson</b>	36.36
Liz Schuler	29.57
Ira Mueller	21.21
<u>300-500</u>	
<b>Reece Schuler</b>	45.03
Dean Shangler	34.43
Gail King	29.77
<u>500-1,000</u>	
<b>Mariee Walton</b>	94.23
Michael Mendelsohn	81.50
Martin Causley	62.02

<u>1,000—1,500</u>	
<b>Betsy Mebane</b>	65.25
Marc Goldberg	61.28
Ian Cloudsdale	52.73
<u>1,500-2,500</u>	
<b>Victor Riva</b>	77.22
Deanna Larus	75.73
Melanie Riva	74.52
<u>2,500-3,500</u>	
<b>Suzanne Goldberg</b>	101.91
Kathy Newman	66.40
James Cunningham	54.78
<u>3,500-5,000</u>	
<b>Tom Roberg</b>	75.91
Ken Dye	64.65
John Torrey	45.49
<u>5,000-7,500</u>	
<b>Mort Stromberg</b>	32.59
Mary Vickers	11.83
<u>7,500-10,000</u>	
<b>Elaine Landow</b>	29.25
B. Wayne Stuart III	28.32
<u>10,000+</u>	
<b>Kay Joyce</b>	111.06
Chris Moll	96.27
Craig Robinson	87.79

### MINI-MCKENNEY

<u>0-5</u>	
<b>Nancy Garman</b>	7.53
Jeanne Goodwell	7.53
Anna Stachon	7.09
<u>5-20</u>	
<b>Rich Haney</b>	17.06
Laura Ross	10.67
Catherine Garland	7.81
<u>20-50</u>	
<b>Randy Grigg</b>	20.59
Joanna Karwowska	15.08
Barbara Jerchower	12.85
<u>50-100</u>	
<b>Margaret Smith</b>	19.18
Diana Eastwood	11.74
Karen Popovich	11.74
<u>100-200</u>	
<b>Lori Scanga</b>	65.73
Shending Sun	64.41
Barbara Bute	46.98
<u>200-300</u>	
<b>Liz Schuler</b>	43.27
Mary Ferguson	38.57
Tony Meyer	28.66
<u>300-500</u>	
<b>Reece Schuler</b>	71.59
Gail King	50.66
Tony Meyer	45.89
<u>500-1,000</u>	
<b>Martin Causley</b>	120.47
Michael Mendelsohn	115.73
Mariee Walton	114.10

<u>1,000-1,500</u>	
<b>Joyce Jenzano</b>	89.61
Betsy Mebane	89.54
Ian Cloudsdale	83.57
<u>1,500-2,500</u>	
<b>Carol Grizzard</b>	112.42
Deanna Larus	101.80
Victor Riva	88.79
<u>2,500-3,500</u>	
<b>Suzanne Goldberg</b>	113.20
Steve Barsby	82.73
Peter Adler	74.10
<u>3,500-5,000</u>	
<b>Tom Roberg</b>	96.88
Ken Dye	88.06
John Torrey	46.35
<u>5,000-7,500</u>	
<b>Mort Stromberg</b>	32.59
Mary Vickers	18.04
<u>7,500-10,000</u>	
<b>B. Wayne Stuart III</b>	134.64
Elaine Landow	43.93
<u>10,000+</u>	
<b>Kay Joyce</b>	380.79
Randy Joyce	344.94
Jacek Pszczola	288.98

# Membership Report

Submitted by Jane Kiernan  
March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020

The total membership for the unit as of June 30 was 644.  
Advancing in rank since March 1 were:

## Junior Master

Nancy Garman  
Jeanne Goodwell  
Thomas Henkel  
Neil Khaner

Larry Potter  
Michele Salmon  
Anna Stachon

## Club Master

Laura Ross  
Anne Fishel

Rich Haney  
Bobbie Hardaker

## Sectional Master

Bayard Atwood

## Regional Master

Betty Harrington  
Karen Popovich

Beth Wilkins

## NABC Master

Ann Fisher  
Renee Getz  
Marian Meyer

Tony Meyer  
Lori Scanga

## Advanced NABC

Liz Schuler

## Bronze Life Master R

John Aluise  
Kamal Das

Michael Mendelson  
Jennie Robinson

## Silver Life Master

Patricia Whitehurst

## Diamond Life Master

Hsun-Kang Su

## Sapphire Life Master

Steven Fine

# TOP TEN REASONS I LIKE PLAYING ON LINE

10. Boards are scored across the entire field
9. You can say what's on your mind
8. It's not a 4 hour time commitment
7. You can play with people all over the world
6. You can watch a replay of every hand
5. You can play when you want
4. You don't have to listen to your opponent's snide comments
3. You don't have to watch your partner roll their eyes
2. You can't get corona virus from your laptop

And reason number one—

1. When things aren't going well you can grab a beer.

## FUNNY THINGS ABOUT ONLINE BRIDGE

Playing with a stranger on OK bridge, I agree to Standard American, plus Cappelletti and some other gadgets she insists on. The way I see it, who cares what you play with pickup partners. Better to just humor them so they can concentrate on judgment and reasoning, which are ten times more important.

So lo and behold, I find myself with a good one-suiter after the opponents open 1NT. Dutifully I bid 2 C (an artificial relay and we wind up in a horrible spot for some horrible result. Confused, I ask her if we are playing Cappelletti. "Yes," she replied, 'but I thought you forgot."

### TOO LITTLE JUDGMENT

In an instant matchpoint game with a novice friend, I pass on one of the boards as dealer. LHO opens 1H and partner overcalls 1S, and with some sort of goodish hand I eventually push us to 4S. This however, does not satisfy partner, who after several moments' thought brandishes the 4NT bidding card (Blackwood). After finding me with one ace, he signs off in 5S. Now, this winds up making, but only because the opponents duck one of their THREE aces. Dear God, partner made a slam try needing three aces from a passed hand! After the session, I try to explain to him the fallacy of his logic, and he nods understandingly. To this day, I'm pretty sure he still doesn't get it.

The Alert is the official newsletter of Unit 191. With all games online now, we miss contact with our members.

I would like to publish stories from our members about online play that would be of interest to others. Please send me your stories to be included in the September alert.

Thank you to **Marc Goldberg** for the terrific article this month—and the past two months too!

Barbara Martin