

# THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

NOVEMBER 2020

From the President.....

Welcome to Election Month! In addition to our “Oh so important” National Election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is also time to elect a new slate of directors for our Unit 191 Board. Details regarding the candidates and voting procedures are presented in this issue of the Alert and on our Unit Website. If you have questions, you can contact **Marian Meyer**. Furthermore, if you know of any Unit member who does not receive our digital communication, please send their names to **Marian Meyer** and she will reach out to them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Directors – **John Schachte, Jane Kiernan** and **Mariee Walton**. All of our membership, especially the existing Board of Directors are so appreciative of their time and hard work on the behalf of Unit 191 these past three years. I also thank **Ed Fuller** for setting up our new electronic election procedures. Without him, it would have been difficult to hold this year’s election.

The end of 2020 is coming fast. In normal times we would be planning and looking forward to our Holiday Gala and club parties in December. Alas, that is not meant to be. While the Gala is cancelled for this year, we will hold a virtual Unit 191 Annual meeting on Zoom. We invite you all to join the Board for an online meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm. To make this possible, members are asked to pre-register for this meeting by email me ([deanna@elarus.com](mailto:deanna@elarus.com)) to reserve your “seat” at the meeting. I will send Zoom instructions to all who register by November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please note that all attendees will be muted at the meeting until called upon. **Jane Kiernan** will monitor the chat and help me address member comments/questions. If you wish to say something at the meeting, please indicate so using the Zoom Chat feature and we will unmute and allow you to contribute. At this meeting, we will review our events of 2020, report our financial status and welcome our new Board members. I looking forward to seeing your healthy smiling faces on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Stay healthy and VOTE!

Deanna



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Our unit and the bridge world lost a true friend with the passing of Josef Blass. If you read the obituary, you know how very accomplished Josef was, not only in bridge but life. The following article was written by **Hugon Karwowski**—his musings about Josef. Thank you kindly, Hugon, for sharing your thoughts.

I first met Jozio, as we Poles called Josef, in 1968 when we were both students at Warsaw University. He emigrated to the U.S. that year soon after getting his M.S. degree in mathematics. He got his Ph.D. at the U. of Michigan in 1970 on work in algebraic topology and became a professor of mathematics in Bowling Green U. in Ohio. Many years later, when Jozio moved to Chapel Hill in his semi-retirement, we began playing bridge together in local clubs, occasional sectionals and nearby regionals. Jozio was always much better than me; unlike me, he took bridge quite seriously and thoroughly studied it. In the last 10 years he became even more involved in the game, becoming a sponsor at the highest level of competitive bridge worldwide. His notes for the bidding system he designed with Marcin Lesniewski, "Carolina Club," ran to more than 300 pages.

Jozio had a group of friends from the old days in Warsaw, bridge players scattered around the world who tried to meet yearly in January for the Bermuda Regional. Though my teaching duties usually prevented me from participating, one year I had a semester off and joined Jozio and the others there. Bridge was of secondary importance, with drinking and socializing being the primary focus. We rented a large "community room" in the hotel hosting the tournament, where we would meet after each evening session to discuss hands, complain about bad luck and consume excessive amounts of alcohol. I recall vividly when a member of the Israeli national team told me that leading 6 of diamonds on board #21 was an idiotic decision. For several minutes, our colleagues wondered aloud: How could such a stupid person ever have become a physics professor? Jozio came to my defense, observing with his characteristic modesty that, after all, he was also an American professor. One should conclude therefore that intellectual standards for professors in America, unlike in Poland

and Israel, were not very high.

In addition to his career as an educator, Jozio was the founder of an investment company, sat on the board of a large bank [MAYBE NAME THE BANK?], and dealt with research and practice of pension funds and bond trading in his Pension Research Institute, located in Chapel Hill.

Discussions with him about European politics and history were not easy, because Jozio knew everything. He never needed, as is common these days at dinner-table discussions, to check a fact by googling it on a smartphone. Jozio just knew: the day of the week of the Battle of Wagram, or the names of the sons of the fifth British prime minister. Needless to say, he knew, to three significant digits, all the percentage plays listed on 50 pages of the Encyclopedia of Bridge. He also remembered all the cards played poorly by me in a deal #15 of last week's club game when we managed to get 47 percent.

Jozio also loved theater, classical music, and opera. We would take trips to London with our wives to see plays on the West End, and every year we went to Stratford, Ontario, for the Shakespeare Festival. Those days in Stratford must have been the only week in the entire year when Jozio did not play or practice bridge.

After Jozio settled in Chapel Hill, he became a great supporter of college bridge. For the past dozen years, he devoted himself to helping the Bridge Club at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His involvement has resulted both in the expansion of the club, and also in its successful participation in the ACBL College Championship competition. Thanks to Jozio's contacts, UNC team members often had a chance to practice with the best players in the world like Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola and Joe Grue. Additionally, the team greatly benefited from coaching by Wayne

Stuart. Last fall, we were meeting twice a week with a dozen UNC Bridge Club members; while I was in charge of pizza and cookies, Jozio was in charge of the novice table. He had infinite patience for novices, which as you all know is a virtue often needed when teaching bridge.

In addition to bridge, Jozio, with his characteristic generosity, offered professional advice to UNC students, and hired some of the club members as summer interns in his business. Jozio was a 2018 ACBL Goodwill Committee Honoree and, in recognition of his considerable contribution to college bridge, was elected president of the ACBL Educational Foundation in 2018.

Jozio also loved to win. No matter whether playing in a top-level national event or in a local bridge club four-table evening session, doing well just made him happy. But he also took losing in stride, knowing that it was just a game and seldom blaming anyone but himself for a poor result. What did drive him crazy, though, was when I missed his defensive signal. This resulted in a barrage of eloquent Polish equivalents of all possible combinations of four- or six-letter words. Forgetting the system was nearly as bad, but after all, as a physics professor, I could not be expected to be perfect.

Playing at the highest level of bridge, Jozio with his team won a number of events in international, national and regional tournaments, including the prestigious Jacoby Swiss Teams in 2018. In June 2018, playing with Jacek Pszczola, he became Grand Life Master of ACBL. In December of that year, his team won the

Reisinger competition, considered to be one of the most challenging bridge events. He made many friends in the bridge circles all over the world, but never socialized with those whom he suspected of cheating.

However, my fondest memories of Jozio are related not to bridge, but to his being the finest imaginable drinking buddy (nothing less than 100 proof was acceptable), erudite travelling companion, and stubborn but knowledgeable partner for discussions of U.S. politics, European history and the (grim) future of human civilization. I sorely miss him. They don't make men like him anymore.

The photo: Jozio, Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola and the undersigned drinking shots of "Mad Dog" at a party in my house in 2012. For connoisseurs of fine drinks, "Mad Dog" contains pure grain (190 proof) alcohol, raspberry juice, both chilled, and two drops of Tabasco. It is to be consumed in a single gulp. One gains quite a new perspective on life after a few of these, as it gets the dopamine flowing in one's COVID-exhausted brain. The drink's influence on the process of selecting the right way of finessing the queen is presently being researched by scientists at



The four candidates who have been nominated for the board were asked to provide a bio and photo so we all know them when (and if we ever get to!!) see them. Following are their submissions—in the order they were sent to me.

Hi, my name is Ian, I'm a bridgeaholic (*Reader: Hi Ian*). It's been three months since I last introduced a new convention (*queue for a polite round of applause*). It was Leaping Michael's, I saw it played against me online and I realized I just had to include it. This happened right after Ed (you probably know him) sent me a link about Extended Michaels, I couldn't help myself, I had to add it to my convention card. During all this time I have been struggling with a new Precision system. It's been rough recently, I have had too much time on my hands and that is why I am running for the board. I need help!



I blame my high school chemistry teacher. He introduced me to this addictive game. I wrote a screenplay about a chemistry teacher and addiction titled Breaking Bad. Yes, Hollywood stole the idea. I thought of suing. We would play at lunch times and when the math teacher came in we would just keep playing the hand, shouting out "We were determining the probabilities Sir". At least we were polite! I played minimally in college, ACOL and a Big Club were around then, but I was able to limit my exposure to Saturday night games. During most of my working life I stayed away—but I always knew I would come back to the game.

Then I met another chemist I had played with in CA (Roman—you probably know him too) and I was pulled back in. At first it was only on Monday nights, but now there was 2 over 1, a forcing NT and New Minor Force. Keycard blackwood and Minorwood became tantalizing to employ. It became worse, playing against precision meant I had to learn new defensive bidding as well. The tipping point was Transfer Walsh—now Roman and I could develop our own system. Oh the euphoria! But it does not last long, we are still tinkering with it.

I was able to control my urges for much of my adult life by playing soccer, another game I love. I became a referee and a coach in order to put back into the game the joy I took away from playing it. This is why I am running for the board as I believe strongly in putting back into a game I have enjoyed so much by encouraging, maintaining and improving the game we play.

HELLO. My name is Ian and I lead low from low doubletons. Feel free to ask why I like to defend and play like this.

**Ian Cloudsdale**

I grew up in eastern North Carolina where my mother played in two social bridge clubs each month—complete with dessert, coffee, tallies and monogrammed table covers. As a child I remember these occasions as I was often in the role of setting up the tables and collecting pencils, as well as counting the cards to be sure they all were there. It was also important to have a quarter to put in the pot. If you scored “high” or “second high” you won part of the pot, and “low” got their money back. Even well into her 90’s, my mother’s favorite outings were around these bridge games.

Later, I matriculated at UNC-CH I would “fill in” for others at the on-going bridge table. And my interest in bridge grew.

In Durham in the 1980’s Helen Moon organized some lessons for a group of us with Hugo Germino, our local bridge guru. His grasp of the game was fascinating and inspiring, and bridge became a weekly staple in our Durham neighborhoods. During those years we were still mostly involved in “rubber” bridge. But duplicate was making a move. About that time, I began a new career and did not play bridge for a number of years.

Now in retirement, I have more time to dedicate to learning the art (and math) of playing duplicate bridge. Meeting new people, making new friends, and learning more about this humbling game is a wonderful part of my life. I am on the verge of attaining Life Master—if I can find a way to earn some more gold and silver points!

Ann Fisher



I am Deanna Larus and I am running for re-election to the Unit Board. I have served on the Board of Directors for Unit 191 for the past four years. Prior to that I was on the Board of Directors for the Durham Bridge Club.

I started learning the game of bridge in 1999 and continue **today** as a player

and club game director. My love of logic puzzles brought me to this game. Each hand is a new puzzle and I love the competition. Also as a retired developmental psychologist who focused on cognition and memory, I hope that playing bridge keeps me mentally sharp!

As a Unit member, I recognize the need for energetic volunteers to keep our group organized and growing. I have worked to provide new opportunities for all bridge players in our area and hope to continue to do so in the coming years. I cannot wait until the pandemic is behind us and bridge becomes a social event again. I miss seeing my friends! Stay well!

Deanna Larus



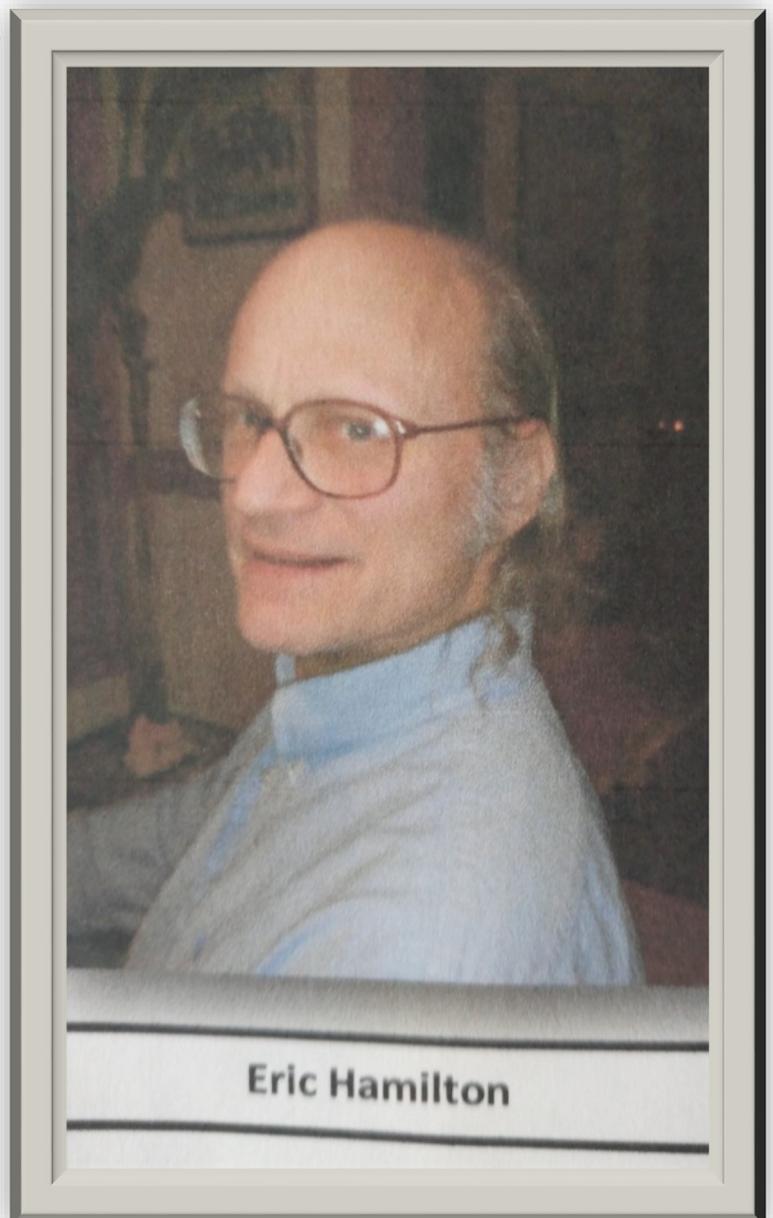
I've lived in Durham and played in unit games since 1978, so one might think that there would be much to say about my experience. However, when I asked ex-partners and teammates for their recollections of my bridge successes, the general reaction was to try to quickly change the subject. One said, "I think there cannot be said too little on the subject"; another remembered only a double compression play that we are unable to reconstruct even with the hand records.

I was on the board for a year or so in the 1980's, when I organized the unit qualification as a round robin among eight team playing 24 board matches one night a week for two months. (A more valuable contribution may have been casting the deciding vote against serving KFC for the sectional's Sunday meal).

After these dubious achievements, career and family got in the way of playing serious bridge; only after I retired at age 58 have I been able to return to the game.

Bringing new players into the game has always been a priority for me, so I am in my fifth year in the unit's mentor/mentee program. So far, I have driven none of my mentees from the game.

Eric Hamilton





## We Want You To Vote!

The slate of candidates from the Unit 191's Nomination Committee is posted in this issue.

**Unit 191's Nomination/Election Committee offers two ways to vote:**

- **Online ballot** in the **Members Only** section of the unit website (see instructions below).
- **Paper ballot** from **Marian Meyer** from November 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Call (919) 933-5919.

Vote for up to four of the candidates for the Unit 191 Board Directors. *Ballots with more than 4 choices are invalid. Voting from **November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Paper ballots must be **received by November 22nd**.*

**Please VOTE!**



***National and local election are Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

***Get out and VOTE in these elections as well!***

**Instructions for accessing the Unit 191 online ballot and voting online:**

- Go to the unit website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>
- Select **Members Only** from the tabs on the left-hand side of the home page.
- Enter your ACBL Number or Email or Name.
- Enter your password.

If this is the first time that you have used "Members Only", click [Set/Reset Password].

Note: After you click [Set/Reset Password], you will get a prompt to **Send Set Password Email**.

BridgeWebs will then send you an email with a link to reset your password. If you do not see the email in your Inbox, check your Spam folder.

Note: This is a *unique personal password* that you create *just* for the Unit 191 website. It is **not** your ACBL password for MyACBL on [acbl.org](http://acbl.org).

- Across the top of the **Members Only** page you will see a number of tabs.  
[For instance, the **Member List** tab is the current Unit 191 online directory.]
- Select the **Unit 191 Director Ballot** tab (currently on the far right).
- Vote for your candidates from the ballot. Write-in candidates are acceptable. Vote for **up to four** candidates. Ballots with **more than 4 choices** are **invalid**.
- Click **Send Message** at the bottom of the ballot to cast your vote.
- You're done. Thank you!

If you have any questions or difficulties in the online voting? Contact Ed Fuller at <[edwin.fuller@gmail.com](mailto:edwin.fuller@gmail.com)> or (301) 906-1667.



♠ **Join the Fun!**



♥ **as a Mentee or Mentor** ♦

The second mentee-mentor game was hosted by The Bridge Academy on BBO, Saturday evening, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who came out to play. We had 26 pairs, some challenging hands, and a delightful time.

Eric Hamilton provided a commentary afterwards on the play of two of these challenging hands. His commentary is appended below. Eric also writes "if a player has any questions about any of the hands after the game, they can email me at <[eric-hamilton@pobox.com](mailto:eric-hamilton@pobox.com)> and I'll either answer or get an answer from one of the real experts." Our thanks to Eric!

Our congratulations to the leaderboard.

- Barbara Bute and Martin Causley, 1st overall with 66.20%!
- Dixie Hapgood and Joyce Jenzano, 2nd overall with 65.05%
- Ralph Balzac and Eric Hamilton, 3rd overall with 62.50%
- Larry Stanczyk and Tim Tessin, 4th overall with 59.49%
- Barbara Starrett and Paul Wright, Jr., 5th overall with 59.26%
- Jeff Olsen and Nancy Sparks, 6th overall with 56.25%

We gave back to the local community, as well. \$3 of each player's game fee, or **\$156**, was donated to the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina**.

Didn't play last time? Please join us for the next mentee-mentor game on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. No *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* bad luck: 50% of all finesse will work just choose them carefully. We hope to "see" you there. The game will be hosted by Triangle Bridge on BBO (**VACB252858**).

Play every card well,

Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, and Donna Walther (Board Liaison)  
Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

♠♥♦♣ **Commentary by Eric Hamilton** ♠♥♦♣

Two noteworthy boards from last night.

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Let's start with board #04. At just about every table West opened 1♦ with ♠Q932, ♥AQ87, ♦Q64, ♣Q6; North preempted with a jump to 2♠ or 3♠, East made a negative double, and one way or another West ended up playing 4♥.

4♥ should make, but it went down every time. And it went down the same way at just about every table.

North leads a club and dummy comes down with ♠K, ♥9642, ♦KJ7, ♣AK873. It looks completely natural to let the club run around to your queen, so that's what just about everyone did... and that's how just about everyone went down.

Let's think about what's going on BEFORE we play to the first trick. LHO (left-hand opponent) preempted in spades and then led a club. That will be a singleton when someone preempts vulnerable and then leads a small card in some other suit, they're looking for a ruff. We have to lose two aces and almost certainly a trump trick but that's OK as long as long as we don't also lose that club ruff.

So, we're going to have to draw trumps to stop the ruff. To draw trumps we have to take the heart finesse. To take the heart finesse we have to be in dummy. And our plan for getting to dummy is...? Clearly, we have to win the first club trick in dummy. If we let it run around to our queen, it's too late no matter how we try to get to dummy they'll win that trick and score one or more ruffs.

If win the club in dummy we can take the heart finesse, follow up with the heart ace and are pleasantly surprised when the jack and ten both come down and the nine can draw the last trump.

Fifty years ago, Fred Karpin wrote a book "*Bridge Strategy at Trick One*," all about the importance of forming your plan BEFORE you make the obvious and natural play from dummy. Deals like this are the reason why.

Board #18 is also interesting, in a funny mathematical way.

West holds ♠5, ♥AT543, ♦JT72, ♣A86 and East holds ♠A6, ♥K762, ♦KQ8, ♣KJ42; most pairs ended up in 4♥ by East after a 1NT opening and a transfer. After South leads their singleton club the contract is pretty safe there's only the diamond ace and maybe a trump to lose. You can't do anything about the diamond, but it is match-points so you'd like to collect an extra overtrick by playing the trumps for no losers if at all possible. So how to do that?

Playing the ace and then the king works when the hearts are 2-2, but it has to be better to start with the king. You'll be really glad you did if RHO shows out on the first round, and it gives you an extra chance if the cards lie as they do here. So, you win the club lead and play the heart king; and RHO plays the queen. You follow up with a small heart, LHO follows small, and you are at the crossroads.

Do you put up the ace, playing RHO for QJ doubleton, or do you assume the queen was a singleton and finesse the ten? It looks like a pure guess because QJ opposite xx and Q opposite Jxx are about equally likely.

It's not. It sounds paradoxical, but finessing the ten is the better play, by odds of about 2:1. One way of seeing this is to imagine that we're playing this hand many times. Maybe out of all these times the hearts are divided Qxx opposite J about one hundred times, Jxx opposite Q about one hundred times, and xx opposite QJ about one hundred times (they're all about equally likely). Out of the one hundred times that RHO was dealt QJ, they will play the queen fifty times and the jack fifty times.

But after we play the king and RHO follows with the queen, most of those possibilities are gone. All that's left are the hundred cases when the queen was a singleton and the fifty cases when the QJ was a doubleton and RHO followed with the queen. Thus, the finesse is right one hundred times for every fifty times that playing for the drop is right; that's 2:1 odds on the finesse.

You'll find plenty of other explanations when you Google for "restricted choice bridge". If you come across one that works better than mine, please let me know.

Local bridge player, Lance Shull, has an excellent YouTube video explaining this statistical situation. It is: ***The Monty Hall Problem: Choosing cars instead of goats***. See: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgUcr-\\_-w9o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgUcr-_-w9o).

--- Ed Fuller

Mentees and mentors,

The next Mentee-Mentor game for Unit 191 and friends is Friday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. The game is hosted online by Triangle Bridge Club (BBO – VACB252858).

- Please let us know if you and your mentor plan to play.
- Would you like to play and *need a mentor*? Let us know.

Email us at <[brightleaf.mentee@gmail.com](mailto:brightleaf.mentee@gmail.com)>



**Andrea Roitman** noted that intermediate and newcomer players are often introduced to various conventions but are not told why they are playing them or of the subtle inferences that various bids have. To enhance better mentee-mentor understanding, she composed a *Bridge Quiz*. The quiz was sent to the mentees last week for them to consider their responses and to discuss them with their mentors. Below is the quiz and Andrea's responses.

#### ♠ ♣ BRIDGE QUIZ ♥ ♦

1. For those of you who play Jacoby 2NT (everyone should learn it), you know when a partner opens 1 of a major and you bid 2NT that you have 4+ card support and opening count. But what is the point of this convention?
2. Everyone should be moving to playing 2/1. It has many advantages. Can you name two? Can you name one drawback to this system?
3. Many people play Puppet Stayman over a 2NT opener or a 2NT rebid by partner when partner opens 2C. What is the major advantage to playing this convention?
4. People are moving to playing 1430 keycard Blackwood rather than regular Blackwood. Name two benefits of playing this convention.

#### ♠ ♣ ANDREA'S ANSWERS ♥ ♦

1. This convention is specifically designed to find slam when you have less than the 33 points needed for slam. When you respond 2NT, you become the captain of this auction. You want to know does partner have a short suit, second suit, weak opener, strong opener. Hopefully that information will guide you to deciding if slam is possible.
2. Advantages:
  - You get to tell partner immediately if there are enough points for game and then bidding can proceed slowly to find the right contract.
  - You can distinguish between a limit raise with a 4-card suit versus a 3-card suit.
  - You can play at a low level with a weak 6-card suit after you first respond 1NT to partner's opener.Drawback:
  - 1NT is now forcing over 1 of a major, so you cannot stop at 1NT even with a weak opener.
3. You can show your point count (20-21) and have a 5-card major. You get a chance to tell partner you have a 5-card major after the 3♣ Puppet Stayman bid. If you have 3 spades (or hearts) and < 6 pts and partner opens 1♠ (or 1♥), you may very well pass and miss a major suit game.
4. Benefits:
  - You get to show if you have King of trump in addition to the number of Aces you have.
  - When you have 2 keycards, you have the opportunity to tell partner whether you also have the Queen of trump by bidding 5♠ rather than 5♥.

# Alert News from the Nominating Committee

Voting begins 11/1/2020 and ends 11/11/2020.

The Nominating Committee was comprised of Board Members and at large members, **Hugon Karwowski, Chris Moll, Marian Meyer, Pat Bodoh and Helen Moon**. They have completed all their work while social distancing!!!

Many thanks to all of you who have shared your nominations. All nominees were ranked by the Nominating Committee and were then selected by their rank. There was no further input from the Unit following the presentation of our nominations and therefore it remains unchanged from the September Alert publication.

**Ian Cloudsdale, Ann Fisher, Eric Hamilton and Deanna Larus** are the four candidates slated for the four positions we need to fill. All accepted their nominations while social distancing!!!

**Ed Fuller** has worked with **Marc Goldberg** to prepare for voting at the Unit 191 Website. This helps us continue to move all our important activity in the Unit 191 Website. Ed will give us directions on the on line voting procedure.

As always, if you need a paper ballot, please call **Marian Meyer** (919-933-5919). Paper ballots will be available 11/1/2020 thru 11/22/2020. If the answering machine picks up, please leave your NAME and PHONE NUMBER and I will call you back to get the information needed to proceed.

Thanks again to all who participated in the valuable contribution of developing a list of candidates for leadership on the Board of Unit 191. We are very fortunate to have interested members who are willing to serve on the Board.

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Marian Meyer**

# Another Intriguing Hand (#4)

*By Randy Joyce*

A couple of weeks ago Nancy Crow sent me a hand that she had played with Liz McGuffey at The Bridge Academy. It was a whopper of a hand and had several interesting points in regards to 2/1 philosophy and Key Card asks. I thought that I should share them with our readers.

Nancy (nan1950) held the following hand:

S...AKx

H...Ax

D...AKxx

C...KQxx

Liz opened 1 Spade! Nancy looked down to make sure that she was seeing her computer screen correctly, and she bid 2 Clubs, making a 2/1, which was forcing to game. Liz bid 2NT. Nancy now bid 3 Spades. As I tell my classes, this is a BIG bid. Usually not quite this big, but a hand that is looking for a slam.

How do we know this? Partner made a limited bid, and if you just have game-going points, you would bid 4 Spades over 2NT.

Liz bid 4 Spades. This is the weakest bid that she could make. If she has some reasonable (for her previous bids) hand, Liz could cue bid the A of Clubs (which she must have for her opener).

The encouraging part of the hand for me is that Nancy took over with Blackwood, and they both knew what the responses were to the inquiry.

Liz bid 5 Clubs (1 or 4 Key Cards), and Nancy bid 5 Diamonds asking for the Spade Q. You say that this is nothing new. It is old hat for you. Believe me, when I say that even accomplished Key Carders flub this one or don't know what to do to ask for "her." I have been playing bridge for 55+ years, and the methods are so much better now for finding out what you need to know for accurate slam bidding.

Anyway, Liz bid 5 Hearts. This showed the Spade Q and the Heart K. What if Liz had not held the Spade Q? She would have bid 5 Spades, saying "I don't have 'her.'" What if Liz had held the Spade Q and no Kings on the side? She would have jumped to 6 Spades: "I have the Q but no side Kings."

Nancy could now count 5 Spades, 3 Clubs, 2 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and either the Heart Q or Diamond Q (for Liz to get to an opening bid) to get to 13 tricks and jumped to 7 Spades. A very pretty auction!

Alas! The patient DIED when Spades broke 5-0, and Liz had to go down 2!!!

I chuckled when Nancy sent this tale of woe. I had played the same hand with Craig Robinson in a virtual game in Winston Salem the same afternoon. We conducted the same auction that Nancy and Liz had up to the 3 Spade bid by Nancy. Over that, Craig bid 4 Clubs. Let me show you Craig's hand and explain his reasoning:

S...Qxxxx

H...Kx

D...Qxx

C...AJT

Craig reasoned that he had nothing to be ashamed of in the bidding and his Clubs were great. Imagine if I held 5 Clubs to the KQ. The upshot of this 4 Club bid was that Craig and I were on the same page, and I felt that he must have the Club A and J to cue bid. When I found out about his Key Cards, I put the contract in 7NT. Nancy could only count on 3 Club tricks. I thought that I could count on 4.

As you can see, Craig had 3 Spades, 2 Hearts, 3/4 Diamonds, and 4 Clubs. That adds to 13 tricks if Diamonds were 3-3. It turns out that Diamonds were 4-2, but the hand with the Diamond length had Hearts that he thought he had to save and pitched a Diamond. Of course, +1520 was a top board!

The reason that I write this article is to encourage players to learn not only 2/1 bidding but also Key Card because they are a better method. I also encourage players to learn some nuances (aka Craig's 4 Club bid) to help enhance their bidding even further. I DO think that bidding has gotten so much better than the "seat of the pants bidding" when I started that I want everyone to realize that there are great tools out there to help you in your quest for better scores. Maybe 7 Spades down 2 is not a good example, but next time it will make and be +1510.



# Master Point Leaders for Calendar Year 2019- - 9/30/2020

## ACE OF CLUBS

## MINI-McKENNEY

<u>0-5</u>	
Neil Khaner	34.25
Anna Stachon	15.75
Marlene Jones	14.03
<u>5-20</u>	
Rich Haney	22.65
Catherine Garland	13.71
Beverly Dugan	12.34
<u>20-50</u>	
Randy Grigg	45.58
Joana Karwowska	35.91
Gene Mills	16.96
<u>50-100</u>	
Margaret Smith	32.93
Karen Popovich	28.60
Holly Hafer	12.83
<u>100-200</u>	
Lori Scanga	129.53
Renee Getz	106.40
Eileen Bok	70.18
<u>200-300</u>	
Mary Ferguson	56.04
Liz Schuler	53.22
Ira Mueller	39.88
<u>300-500</u>	
Reece Schuler	71.26
Dean Shangler	53.84
Gail King	52.88
<u>500-1000</u>	
Michael Mendelsohn	181.01
Mariee Walton	122.94
Martin Causley	112.61

<u>1000-1500</u>	
Marc Goldberg	117.91
Betsy Mebane	97.42
Howard Hochman	80.41
<u>1500-2500</u>	
Victor Riva	127.46
Melanie Riva	126.33
Deanna Larus	123.90
<u>2500-3500</u>	
Suzanne Goldberg	239.04
Kathy Newman	99.50
James Cunningham	89.18
<u>3500-5000</u>	
Tom Roberg	144.34
Ken Dye	113.28
John Torrey	66.61
<u>5000-7500</u>	
Mort Stromberg	32.59
Mary Vickers	14.76
<u>7500-10000</u>	
B. Wayne Stuart III	53.67
Elaine Landow	37.85
<u>10000+</u>	
Kay Joyce	222.59
Randy Joyce	180.72
Chris Moll	157.22

<u>0-5</u>	
Neil Khaner	36.75
Anna Stachon	15.75
Marlene Jones	14.03
<u>5-20</u>	
Rich Haney	22.65
Laura Ross	15.33
Catherine Garland	13.71
<u>20-50</u>	
Randy Grigg	45.58
Joana Karwowska	36.65
Gene Mills	17.98
<u>50-100</u>	
Margaret Smith	34.80
Karen Popovich	28.60
Diana Eastwood	14.42
<u>100-200</u>	
Lori Scanga	131.89
Renee Getz	125.84
Eileen Bok	89.39
<u>200-300</u>	
Liz Schuler	69.83
Mary Ferguson	59.51
Ira Mueller	45.85
<u>300-500</u>	
Reece Schuler	100.73
Gail King	76.69
Alice Hughley	62.61
<u>500-1000</u>	
Michael Mendelsohn	215.24
Martin Causley	198.40
Mariee Walton	143.94

<u>1000-1500</u>	
Marc Goldberg	127.57
Betsy Mebane	121.71
Joyce Jenzano	117.60
<u>1500-2500</u>	
Carol Grizzard	151.21
Deanna Larus	150.74
Victor Riva	139.98
<u>2500-3500</u>	
Suzanne Goldberg	250.33
Peter Adler	104.19
Kathy Newman	101.86
<u>3500-5000</u>	
Tom Roberg	165.31
Ken Dye	136.69
John Torrey	67.30
<u>5000-7500</u>	
Mort Stromberg	32.59
Mary Vickers	20.97
<u>7500-10000</u>	
B. Wayne Stuart III	160.19
Elaine Landow	52.53
<u>10000+</u>	
Kay Joyce	492.32
Randy Joyce	442.91
Jacek Pszczola	288.98

## Reviewing & Studying the Play of a Hand in BBO

- In BBO click on the History tab on the right-hand side of the screen.
- Select the game containing the hands you would like to review.
- Select a hand to review.
-  In the green window with the hand, left click on the three horizontal bars in the blue box in the upper right-hand corner.
- Select "Show double dummy" in the drop-down menu.
- Repeat step 4.
- Select "Advance card by card" in the drop-down menu. If already selected only the other option, "Advance trick by trick," will show.
-   Play the hand card by card using the blue "Previous card" and "Next card" tabs on the bottom of the hand. See below for an explanation of the symbols in the double dummy mode.

**Save hand for later review.** To save the hand for later review :

- Repeat step 4 from above.
- Select Export.
- Select "Handviewer link" in the new drop-down menu.
- Copy the URL address in the "Handviewer link" pop-up box or click on the hyperlink to open the hand in a new window on your web browser.

### Reviewing the hand in a new window.

- In this new window, the "GIB" tab at the bottom shows the double-dummy analysis for each card in the hand whose turn it is to play. It must be clicked again to see the double-dummy analysis for next hand.
- Clicking on the "Play" tab at the bottom allows you to select different cards from those initially played at that point in the initial play of the hand. After clicking the "Play" tab, it becomes an "Exit" tab. Clicking on the "Exit" tab returns to the point where you deviated from the original play of the hand.

GIB analysis Factoid:

The robots used on BBO are called GIB (Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridgeplayer).

**Symbols in the double dummy mode.** The symbols over each card show the double-dummy results of playing that card. A green circle with an "=" symbol (=) denotes exactly making the contract. Green circles with numbers denote the number of over tricks possible, e.g., 2 denotes two possible overtricks. Red circles with numbers denote the number of undertricks possible, e.g., 1 denotes one possible undertrick.

See also the YouTube video, "**Reviewing a hand you played,**" by Lance Shull from Aug 10, 2020

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTW8HLGi\\_Rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTW8HLGi_Rc)

# DOUBLE TROUBLE

(with permission from Mette Smith (author) to include in the Alert

Two problems that are sort of unique to virtual bridge, **disconnects and misclicks.**

In F2F, we were often disconnected but could not continue to play, no problem. And our mis-bids could be corrected if the new bid was not a change of mind. In the virtual world, the problems need to be handled a little differently.

## #1: Wi-Fi

A disconnect at the table is familiar to all of you. Wait a minute or so for the missing player to come back. Call the director *when you want a sub* and ask for a robot. The missing player will be reseated as soon as they are back online. In theory.

## #2: OOPS

A misclick can't be fixed, no undos. *Do not!!!! Call the director until the hand is over.*

If the error is a natural, non-alertable bid, keep quiet and do the best you can.

If the bid is conventional and alertable, go ahead and alert, then tell your opponents you made a mistake.

- a. Your partner is not entitled to any of this information.
- b. Your opponents are not entitled to know what's in your hand.

1 Spade - 4 Clubs\* (short in clubs)

Alert 4 clubs—hit the alert button and explain that it's a splinter. Then use the chat to tell your opponents (NOT the table) you made a mistake. That's all the information they are entitled to. You do not have unauthorized information and can try to fix the auction as long as your partner is not aware of the problem,

Thanks,

Mette

# Membership Report

Submitted by Jane Kiernan

July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020

The total membership for the unit as of October 1 was 645.

Advancing in rank since July 1 were:

[Junior Master](#) - Marlene Jones—Joan Roberts—Ralph Balzac—Tom Bordeaux—  
Alana Ennis—Jeff Olson—Jo Anne Rosenfeld—Michael Sauter

[Club Master](#)— Bowei Dong—Beverly Dugan—Katherine Garland—Neil Khaner

[Sectional Master](#)—Joanna Karwowska—Barbara Ewen—Randy Grigg—Barbara  
Jerchower

[NABC Master](#)— Dixie Hapgood

[Life Master](#)— Ira Mueller

[Silver Life Master](#)—Eloise Fontaine—Dave Streifford

[Ruby Life Master](#)— Linda Whipple

## Do it yourself...

In the past if you had a change in your residence, email, or phone number and you wanted this change to be included in the Membership Directory you would get in touch with the Membership chairman and ask to have the directory updated. Then you would keep an eye on the directory to confirm that your information had been updated.

Now, thanks to Marc Goldberg and Ed Fuller, you can change your account information yourself. The process is simple:

- Go to the website: [bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/](http://bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/)
- On the left there will be a list of options. Select **Members Only**.
- You will be asked to log in. If you have not used this feature there are instructions on the screen telling you how to create an account.
- Once you have logged in there will be several tabs across the top listing the functions available to you.
- Select **Account**.
- You will now be able to update the information in your account.
- Once you have finished making your changes, click on the **Save** box, which is located on the top left portion of your screen.

If you have any questions about this procedure please contact Jane Kiernan at [jik2215@gmail.com](mailto:jik2215@gmail.com) or 919-264-0220.

Hello Bridge Community!!!!

I grew up in Greensboro, NC as the fourth child of six children; four boys and two girls. I graduated from Dudley High School in 1968 and attended Leon's Beauty College. I was one of the first black students accepted in a white beauty school and one of the first black licensed cosmetologists in the Greensboro area to work in a white beauty salon as a cosmetologist. I worked for Mr. Leon, President of Hair Fashion Council of America at his beauty shop on Tate Street for several years before relocating to Durham, NC, with my mother and my highly motivated stepfather. My stepfather was blind and was accepted to attend Law School at NCCU. He was a man with unbelievable drive. I read him his law books for three years while he was in law school until he graduated. This was a wonderful and valuable learning experience for me.

It is in Durham that I met and married the man of my dreams. We were very happily married March 18, 1978 and had our one and only child, Zelotis Woody, Jr. born September 1, 1982. Unfortunately, my husband died with acute myelogenous leukemia April 23, 1990. My husband and I had some very happy and blessed times together of which I am grateful.

I worked at the Aesthetic Beauty Salon in Chapel Hill. One day while walking downtown for lunch I decided to fill out an application to work on UNC's campus. Best thing that ever happened to me.

THE REST IS HISTORY!!!!

I am a TAR HEEL...I bleed sky blue!!!!!!I worked at Carolina for 30 years as an Administrative Assistant in various departments. I worked at the School of Law, Wilson Library (when it was the main library before Davis was built), School of Public Health-Department of Continuing Education, School of Social Work-Field Education, School of Medicine-Department of Allied Health Sciences, and the School of Global Public Health-Department of Health Education and Health Behavior. I also worked at the American Tobacco Company and GTE (now Verizon) during my working career.

Well!!!! Retirement at 60 in 2010!!!! What is in store for me now? BRIDGE!!!!

My first day of retirement a neighbor stopped by and asked what was I doing my first day not working. I said nothing. She said, "Come ride with me to a bridge game". THAT DID IT!!!!!! I started taking classes with Jay, Darleen, Harrison, Jack, Marty and Henry, attended workshops and bugged numerous players for advice and pointers. It worked, for all my hard work and due diligence, I was awarded in 2012 the Ace of Clubs 0-5 certificate and the Mini McKenney 0-5 medallion and again in 2013 the Ace of Clubs 20-50 certificate and the Mini McKenney 20-50 medallion by then President, Phil Erlenbach both years. I have been a bridge player for ten years. Today I have 425 master points (and growing) of which I am very proud. I love the game because it requires you to concentrate on several things at once. The whole strategy is to remember what cards of the 52 cards have already been played. Easy right!!! Another achievement is I was the first black to be elected to the ACBL Unit 191 Brightleaf Board and have been elected to two subsequent consecutive terms. It has been a privilege and joy to be elected to represent such a magnificent group of people.

I enjoy and treasure being a first time grandmother to a granddaughter named Zoey Elaine who will be three November 25<sup>th</sup>. She is the apple of my eye and I am blessed to live close by and experience the thrills of a grandchild.

I enjoy family, bridge, traveling, reading, cooking, church, and shopping. I love people, jewelry, dogs and cats.

I miss seeing and talking to you all. Hopefully in the near future we can all get together and have some bridge fun. Remember to wear your mask, social distance and wash/sanitize your hands. Stay safe and stay well.

Best regards.

Phylliss



The Bright Leaf Alert is the official publication for Unit 191. If you have ideas or suggestion for articles, please notify a board member or Barbara Martin, Editor.

It seems appropriate at this time of year to give thanks -

- \* To our club directors for keeping the games going during this pandemic
- \* To our unit board who continue to meet and make sure the unit is thriving and keeping our members apprised of activities
- \*To our members for supporting our clubs
- \* To Ed Fuller and Marc Goldberg for maintaining our unit's wonderful website
- \*And a personal THANK YOU for the many who continually contribute articles and ideas for the alert—it would never be possible without you!