

# THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

DECEMBER 2020

## 2020 In Review

- In January 2020, the Board of Directors was making plans for the year including a lecture series, three sectional tournaments and some social events for all to enjoy.
- In February 2020, we were gearing up for our first Unit sectional tournament.
- On March 11, 2020, we cancelled that sectional tournament and on March 16<sup>th</sup>, all clubs ceased running face-to-face games in our area.
- Week of March 30, 2020, The Bridge Academy and Triangle Bridge Club began holding virtual club games through BBO. And this continues today.

Now in December, many of us are still playing duplicate bridge on BBO. We have added a mentor/mentee game once a month hosted alternately by Triangle Bridge Club and the Bridge Academy. (Thanks Henry and Chris!) We ran two successful fundraisers. The first raised over \$25,000. This money was used to provide some support for our two largest clubs who have high fixed costs. For the second, proceeds from the mentor/mentee game (\$480) was donated to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Thanks to our generous members!

In November 2020, we elected new Board members in preparation for 2021. I would like to thank our outgoing Board members, **Mariee Walton, John Schachte and Jane Kiernan** for their time and efforts these past three years. Their contributions were invaluable! Please thank them when you see them.

*(continued)*



**Ian Cloudsdale, Eric Hamilton and Ann Fisher** were welcomed at the Annual meeting as our newest Board members. We are very appreciative that they are willing to work with the current Board members to provide great opportunities for play and learning for us all. Perhaps soon we will be planning a party to celebrate the end of the pandemic!

At the Annual meeting, we reviewed the membership and financial status of the Unit. We currently have 641 members. The business year for Unit 191 ends November 30, 2020. Given that we canceled our three primary sectional tournaments, we had little income for 2020. Our major expenses were a generous donation to the Support Our Local Clubs fundraiser, the December 2019 Gala, and an unfortunate loss due to an email scam in February. As such, our Unit registered a net loss of \$7943.47 for 2020. Thank goodness we had a respectable amount in reserve and we are ready for 2021. The 2020 End-of-Year financial statements can be found on the Unit webpage for review by unit members.

In Memoriam - 2020

Linda Baugh

Josef Blass

Ginny Botchko

Jack Heslip

Marianna Jaeger

Lilyan Levine

Pat Livers

Beverly Stone

Evelyn Tuck

They will be missed!

Sincere apologies to Hugon Karwowski. In last month's issue, Hugon wrote an article about his friend Josef Blass, and in an effort to enlarge the photo, I cut out some of the commentary.

The last paragraph included a photo of Josef, Hugon and Pepsi drinking shots of "Mad Dog" at a party 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 National Institute of Mental Health".*



Participants in the annual meeting held on December 1. See details in this edition of the Alert. Sorry to have to post this picture in the wrong direction—only way possible to make it large enough to identify the zoomers.



# Thank you!

At the Annual Meeting, we usually take the opportunity to thank all who contribute to our bridge community events. We thank:

**2020 Board Members:** Deanna Larus, Paul Morrissette, Suzie Goldberg, Ray McEntee, Chris Moll, Marian Meyer, Donna Walther, Phylliss Woody, John Schachte, Jane Kiernan, Hugo Karwowski, and Mariee Walton.

**Club Owners and Game Directors:** Chris Moll, Henry Meguid, John Torrey, Maggie Lindquist, Valerie Roberts, Ray McEntee, Deanna Larus and others who have stepped in when needed.

**Nominations Committee:** Marian Meyer, Hugon Karwowski, Chris Moll, Helen Moon and Pat Bodoh who successfully planned and implemented our elections this year.

**Mentoring Committee:** Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute and Donna Walther and Nancy Crow, Andrea Roitman who preceded them as organizers.

**Webmaster:** Marc Goldberg

**Alert Editor:** Barbara Martin

Also thank you to all other Unit members who contribute in ways big and small. Social events, hospitality and many other ways. We recognize you all!





## Please support your virtual clubs.....

Support for our virtual clubs, specifically the Bridge Academy (BA) and the Triangle Bridge Club (TBC), has dropped since the summer and I would like to encourage you to please continue to participate in your local clubs. It is highly likely that the ACBL will stop all virtual clubs on BBO once a level of safety is in place in 2021. The BA and TBC are the brick and mortar locations we need to survive post covid in Durham/Chapel Hill and their environs.

First a big thank you to all who supported the fund raiser. The Unit raised slightly over \$25,000. This was used to support clubs in the short term, and as we know, Covid will continue to affect our lives into 2021.

In 2020 many new online options to play bridge have developed. The ACBL runs daily games and has run some regional and national games as well. There has also been a trend for people to play more morning games. I know your choices are varied, so I want to try and give you more information to help you in your choice of online venues.

One question I have heard a lot is why are the costs so variable at the local virtual [clubs](#). The ACBL suggested guidelines for the clubs is for them to charge 75% of their normal fee. After BBO and ACBL expenses, the club managers in BA and TCB currently gross \$23-24 per table with which to cover their leases etc. Each club has different expenses. Some clubs may only have rented space a couple of days a week in a location, others like the BA and TBC have long term leases. Some clubs are not paying for their rental space at all. Both TBC and BA have found some relief from their landlords, but even so times are tough. For instance in August one club would have had a loss of \$2000 without the landlord's help. Virtual clubs are really only helping our clubs to keep their heads above water and recently due to small games not even that. Every table counts!

If you cannot play some days, consider also the ACBLSYC "support your club" option. On the BBO home page it can be found under Featured Areas/ ACBL World. Excess monies over the normal ACBL game fees go to the local clubs you have attended on a pro rata basis.

We realize that you have choices for playing your games on BBO these days, but I hope the above explanations will aid you in your decisions of where and when to play. We all want these clubs to survive the pandemic.

Happy holidays, enjoy your bridge and I look forward to seeing you in person in 2021.

**Ian Cloudsdale**

On behalf of the board for unit191





♠ **Come Play**  
**with Us!** ♣

♥ **as a Mentee or Mentor** ♦

The Frigga Triskaideka mentee-mentor game was hosted by Triangle Bridge on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> evening, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who came out to play. We had 28 pairs, challenging hands, and a delightful time!

Want to review some of the hands that you played? Bridge Base Online has a useful technique for doing so. It is described on page 16 of the November issue of the *Bright Leaf Alert Newsletter*. Additionally, Lance Shull has an excellent video describing "**Reviewing a hand you played**," YouTube, August 10, 2020: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTW8HLGi\\_Rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTW8HLGi_Rc)

Our congratulations to the leaderboard.

**Dixie Hapgood & Joyce Jenzano**, 1<sup>st</sup> in NS and 1<sup>st</sup> overall with 65.48%  
**Becky Fuchs and Josh Geigerman**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in NS and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 60.75%  
**Phylliss Woody & Paul Morrissette**, 1<sup>st</sup> in EW and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 56.65%  
**Beverly Craig & Ed Fuller**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in EW and 4<sup>th</sup> overall with 56.40%  
**Renee Getz & Emily Hungerford**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in NS and 5<sup>th</sup> overall with 56.02%  
**Pat Heavner & Mariee Walton**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in EW and 6<sup>th</sup> overall with 55.76%

We gave back to the local community, as well. \$3 of each player's game fee, or **\$168**, 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 Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. The game will be hosted by The Bridge Academy on BBO (**VACB267385**). We hope to "see" you there. **Let us know if you would like to play and need a mentor.**

Play every card well,

**Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, and Donna Walther (Board Liaison)**

Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

## MEET DONNA WALTHER.....

I have been a member of Unit 191 of ACBL since 2002, and loved every minute. Well, maybe not every minute, but overall, I have loved the camaraderie, the challenge to learn new bids, better ways to play the cards, and overall the ability to keep my brain working as I am getting on in years.

I grew up in Seattle, to a family who loved games. I was the third of four children and we had 22 cousins, most of whom lived in Seattle as well. We played lots of games, many, many card games, but not bridge, at least not until I was about 16 years old. My parents decided to expand from Pinochle to social bridge. I watched and learned and eventually got the Goren book on bridge. I read it from cover to cover (when I was supposed to be doing my school homework), and practiced by dealing out hands by myself, bidding and playing as if I knew nothing about the other hands. Then I reread the Goren book to pick up information that I missed the first time through. But I never had any friends that played bridge until I went to Michigan State University for college. My first best friends there were bridge players, so we had a running game and played whenever someone did not feel up to studying, which was a lot of the time.



I met my future husband, Phil, at MSU. We got married right after graduation, and headed for Durham NC, where he was accepted into the MD/PhD program at Duke, and I started my career in computers at IBM in RTP. While at IBM, I found a good friend who had an 8-person bridge group. I subbed several times, and was asked to join when one of the others left town. We were in Durham for 7 years, before we moved to CA for 5 years, for Phil's residency in Urology. I never found friends who played bridge out there. We moved back to Durham in December 1981, when Phil accepted the offer to be on Duke faculty. I continued playing only social bridge because some of my friends warned me about how nasty players were at the duplicate games. Obviously, they had no idea about the concept of rules being followed. Finally, Nancy Young and Helen Moon convinced me to try duplicate, and I am sorry I had resisted for so long.

Meanwhile, I was pretty busy with my life. We have 3 sons, first and third born in Durham, second born in Northridge, CA. Between them, they have provided me with 4 grandsons, 2 granddaughters, and 3 step grandsons. They are spread around the country, one in Michigan, one in El Segundo, Ca, and one outside Chicago. So I do not get to see them much during this Covid thing.

I am pleased to serve on Unit 191 Board, and will be glad to assist anyone who has ideas for improvements to our games.

You can reach me by email: [donnawalther@mac.com](mailto:donnawalther@mac.com)

**Donna Walther**

# WHAT DO THE NUMBERS MEAN AFTER A USER NAME ON BBO

Players who do well in any pay tournament in BBO will earn BBO Points. In addition, National Bridge organizations like ACBL, EBU, TBF, AEB, may also award their own points to good performers in their specific pay tournaments. (i.e., ACBL tournaments on BBO award BBO points as well as ACBL masterpoints.)

## BBO POINTS ROYAL AWARDS

The top 250 players are rewarded with a BBO Royal award symbol.

- A** Leader in the historical table of BBO Points won
- K** 2nd-30th in the historical table of BBO Points won
- Q** 31st-100th in the historical table of BBO Points won
- J** 100-250th in the historical table of BBO Points won

## BBO POINTS AWARDS

Players with at least 1000 BBo Points are rewarded with a BBO Master award symbol. This rank advances with every 100 BBo Points earned.

- 10** 1000+ BBO Points on BBO
- 11** 1100+ BBo Points on BBO
- 12** 1200+ BBO Points on BBO
- 22** 2200 BBO Points on BBO

**And so on....**

## BBO POINTS

Players who have earned enough BBO Points are rewarded with a BBO award symbol. A + sign next to a symbol indicates a player who has earned more than half of the points required towards the next rank.

- 9**-500+ BBO Points
- 8** -300+ BBO Points
- 7** -200+ BBO Points
- 6** -100+ BBO Points
- 5** -50+ BBO Points
- 4** -20+ BBO Points
- 3**—5+ BBO Points
- 2** -1+ BBO Points