

# BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

MAY 2021

## TRIANGLE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Over the years, your support has enabled both Triangle Bridge and The Bridge Academy to grow and attract new players to the game we all love. Last March, face-to-face bridge came to an abrupt pause, but fortunately, not to an end. The support of the unit, your generosity and the genesis of virtual games were critical to sustaining the operation of our businesses. Any business, especially a brick-and-mortar bridge club, requires a financial commitment, resources, and sustainable growth. This reality became more evident during the pandemic.

Last week, Governor Cooper announced a potential relaxation of restrictions on indoor gatherings on June 1, 2021. This goal is contingent upon increased vaccination, a decline in COVID19 cases, and maintenance of social distancing and mask wearing.

Though 2020 presented us with many challenges, it also gave us time to reflect on the future. Both Chris and I have a vision of a unified, comprehensive bridge program for our community that features both high-level play as well as a forum for learning. To this end, we are excited to announce that we combined our resources to form **The Triangle Bridge Academy** at 2634 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd.

Please stay tuned to when we announce our first game in June. A proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks will be required.

We are looking to a bright future for bridge in our community.

**Henry Meguid & Chris Moll**

From the Unit 191 President, Deanna Larus.....

**Big news! Read all about it here!**

This week, Governor Cooper has announced steps towards the resumption of normal life. As more people are vaccinated against the coronavirus and the infection rate declines, we will be able to resume face-to-face interactions with more people. For us, that means face-to-face bridge. Yay! The Board and our Bridge club owners are busy getting back to business. I have been told that Farrington Bridge Club will resume their weekly game mid-month and that Governor's Club Bridge Club is following suit. I am waiting to hear about Roxboro's club plans.

*(continued)*

But the biggest news involves Triangle Bridge Club and The Bridge Academy. The club owners have fought hard to survive as private small businesses with fixed expenses while closed since March 16, 2020. Unit members contributed greatly to this effort by donations to our Fundraiser in spring of 2020 and by playing in their virtual club games on BBO. Thank you to all! Chris Moll and Henry Meguid are now preparing to re-open as the pandemic eases. Big decisions are being made. What will duplicate bridge look like going forward? Chris and Henry have decided to join forces and will re-open in a few weeks as the **Triangle Bridge Academy** at the Bridge Academy's existing location in Durham. The Unit 191 Board of Directors was recently informed, and we are excited to unanimously support this new direction. Chris and Henry are valuable contributors to our bridge community. Individually they have worked hard to stay in business up to this point and plan to work hard going forward to offer us games, tournaments, and bridge educational opportunities in the future in a beautiful playing environment. The Board hopes that you will support them as they join forces and head in this new direction.

Club operations will be consolidated, new schedules established, and face-to-face bridge will resume. They are establishing health and safety rules so that we may all enjoy our game and stay protected from the lingering virus at the same time. While many details are still being worked out, we expect a few sanctioned games to be offered in June and hope to return to a regular schedule of face-to-face bridge as of July 1. Please support Henry and Chris as they usher us forward into our return to normal. Working together we can all enjoy our favorite game. Let's play bridge!

If you have any questions or thoughts, please feel free to contact me at [deanna@elarus.com](mailto:deanna@elarus.com) or any of our club managers. We are moving forward – stalled no longer!

## GOODWILL NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Unit 191 Board of Directors considers nominees to be honored as Goodwill Ambassadors and selects an individual whose name is also submitted for District nomination. The ACBL invites units to select a nominee to be so honored, stipulating "the ideal nominee is one who personifies high standards of goodwill, sportsmanship and volunteerism; who gives selflessly of his/her time to promote and enhance bridge; who exhibits good manners; and who strives to make the game nicer for all of us. This person has an exemplary demeanor at the bridge table—welcoming and friendly."

Individuals who have been recognized in the past by our unit as Goodwill Ambassadors are:

**Paul Morrisette (2020) Joyce Jenzano (2019), Ed Fuller (2017), Jim Bean, Peggy Barbee, Mary Lou Johnson, Harrison Brooke, Linda Harris, Bob Boggs, Sue Torrey, John Torrey, JoAnne Vansuch, Maggie Lindquist, Darleen Bates, Sigrid Olin, Robin Marin and others.**

Others in our unit who have been recognized elsewhere as Goodwill Ambassadors include :

**Jay Bates, George and Judith Bloomer, Kay and Randy Joyce, Chris Moll, and Mike Sears.**

Please consider submitting the names of individuals in our unit who you feel are deserving of this recognition. It will be helpful to the committee to include specific comments in support of your nomination of such individuals. Nominations may be submitted to any member of the Goodwill Award Committee -

**Chris Moll (Chair), Donna Walther and Hugon Karwowski.**

The committee will consider all nominations and information and send recommendations to the full Board of Directors for final selection of the 2021 nominee from this unit at its end of May meeting.

The deadline for submitting names and comments to the committee is **May 15**. Please direct any questions you may have to any of the committee members or to **Deanna Larus**, Unit President.

♠ **Come Play with Us!** ♣

♥ **as a Mentee or Mentor** ♦

The **April Showers Mentee-Mentor** game was hosted by The Bridge Academy on the evening of Saturday, April 10th. Thanks to all who came out to play. We had 22 pairs, challenging hands, and a delightful evening!

**Eric Hamilton** provided an insightful commentary on ***going for a top matchpoint score*** on **Board #3**. His insights are appended below. Our thanks to Eric!

Our hearty congratulations to the leaderboard for evening:

**Rich Schneider & Deborah Reed**, 1<sup>st</sup> overall with 60.61%.

**Larry Stanczyk & Debbie Sears**, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 60.53%.

**Lori Scanga & Jon Nadel**, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 58.57%.

**Renee Getz & Emily Hungerford**, 4<sup>th</sup> overall with 57.01%.

**Beverly Craig & Ed Fuller**, 5<sup>th</sup> overall with 56.06%.

**Karen Popovich & John Kirby**, 6<sup>th</sup> overall with 55.82%.

We gave back to the local community, as well, in this time of need. **\$3** of each player's game fee, or **\$132**, will be donated to the ***Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina***.

Didn't play last time? Please join us for the May Flowers mentee-mentor game on **Friday, May 14th** at **7:00 p.m.** The game will be hosted by Triangle Bridge on BBO (VACB252858). 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, & Donna Walther** (Board Liaison)  
Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

World Grand Master Kate McCallum's ***"46 Bridge Rules To Live By"***: **9-11**

9. **NEVER LIE ABOUT TRUMP LENGTH.** If you do, partner cannot make winning Law of Total Trick decisions. Or he will choose the wrong trump suit. Or he will misdefend because he has the wrong count.
10. **WHEN YOU HAVE A RAISE, RAISE.** Whenever you can, raise your partner's suits.
11. **WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT'S TRUMPS, TELL PARTNER.** He makes better decisions when he knows.

on Matchpoint Play ♦♣

Let's take a look at Board #3 from the Mentee-Mentor game on April 10.

Sitting South and dealing at favorable vulnerability, we pick up **S:** A3, **H:** AJT432, **D:** T96, **C:** J2. We open this with a weak 2H and partner bounces us into 4H. LHO leads the spade ten and dummy comes down: **S:** KQ2, **H:** KQ6, **D:** J4, **C:** AK874.

This contract is cold. Even if the trumps were to break 4-0, we have eleven top tricks: six hearts, AKQ of spades, AK of clubs. But this is *matchpoints*, so we don't want to settle for just the eleven obvious tricks that everyone is going to take if we can do better. **Can we do better?**

We got a bit of luck here because the bad guys didn't lead a diamond; if they had, they would have taken the first two tricks and there'd be nothing left for us to do except draw some trumps, click the "Claim" button and move on to the next hand. But we did get that bit of luck, so we can go looking for a way to get rid of the diamond losers and make some overtricks. This means getting something more out of the clubs than the obvious ace and king.

There are two ways of trying to use the clubs: the absolutely safe way and the not-quite-safe matchpoint-winning way.

First, the safe way: Win the spade lead in hand (we're going to need the 3 of spades as an entry to dummy in a moment), draw trumps in three rounds, play the AK of clubs and then ruff a club. If the clubs are 3-3 dummy's last two clubs are high; play the spade 3 to dummy, discard our three losing diamonds on the two good clubs and the third spade and claim 13 tricks. This will work if the clubs break, which will happen about one time in three. If the clubs are 4-2 we can still ruff the last club good, but we can't get back to dummy to use it so it doesn't do us any good; we still have two diamond losers and just the eleven tricks we started with.

North	W	N	E	S
♠ KQ2				2♥
♥ KQ6	P	4♥	P	P
♦ J4	P			
♣ AK874				
South				
♠ A3				
♥ AJ10432				
♦ 1096				
♣ J2				

Second, the not-quite-safe way: Again, win the spade in hand. Draw two rounds of trump with the ace and king. When the hearts break 3-1, start in on the clubs even though there's still a trump out there: ace of clubs, king of clubs, club ruff high (because of that outstanding trump), back to dummy with the queen of hearts drawing the last trump. If the clubs are 3-3, we have the rest of the tricks. If (as is much more likely) the clubs are 4-2, we ruff another club and go back to dummy with the spade 3 to discard two of our three diamond losers on the fifth club and the third spade. Starting the clubs before we've drawn the last trump has given us another entry to dummy so we can get to and use the long club. (Of course, it would be embarrassing if the clubs were 5-1 and the king is ruffed - we've just compressed our sure eleven tricks into ten and a bottom board, and that's why this line of play is not completely safe.)

This board was played eleven times, with South declaring a heart contract every time. Ten of the eleven declarers were spared the diamond lead, but only one of these lucky ten tried working on the clubs. They were rewarded with 13 tricks, +510 and a 100% score, when the clubs broke 3-3.

So, what's the right matchpoint plan here? Take your sure eleven tricks for 50%? Draw the third round of trumps and then ruff a club, scoring a top when the clubs are 3-3 and keeping your average when they aren't? Or starting the clubs after two rounds of trump, scoring a top whenever the clubs are better than 5-1, but losing big when they aren't? Considering how seldom suits break 5-1, I'd take the chance and consider myself unlucky if it doesn't work.

# LET 2NT HELP YOU

By Randy Joyce

At a recent pairs game on BBO, my partner Nancy Crow held the following hand:

S...QJ9x

H...AJx

D...ATxx

C...Qx

I opened 1 Spade, and Nancy bid 2 Diamonds. From this start, we bid to 5 Spades making 6.

I am going to show you why you should ALWAYS bid Jacoby 2NT when you hold 4 trumps and an opening bid. The main reason is to find shortness in partner's hand, but side issues concern

1. SHOWING partner that you have 4 trumps, and
2. FINDING out if partner has extra values with a square hand.

After our start of 1 Spade - 2 Diamonds, I bid 2 Hearts. Nancy bid 2 Spades showing a good hand. Well, Nancy is always an optimist. I bid 3 Clubs showing 1st round control and Nancy bid 3 Diamonds showing the same. I marked time with 3 Spades and Nancy cue bid 4 Hearts. Blackwood elicited 2 with the Q, and I passed. *You What?*

It's time to show you my hand:

S...Kxxxx

H...KQxx

D...Kx

C...AJ

I was laboring under the assumption that partner only had 3 trumps and I was afraid that the Q of trumps was not backed up by the J. I did not want to bid a slam that depended on finding the Ax of trumps in one hand. The fourth trump, the Jack as it turned out, made the slam cold. If partner had not had the J, I still had good chances. She could never convey that she had 4 trumps, with this auction.

Let's see how the bidding would have gone using Jacoby. Immediately, I would have known that her trump holding was four or more:

1 Spade - P - 2NT

3 Spades

Hold it! What does 3S by me mean? I get asked that question quite frequently, "What do you do over Jacoby if you have extra values and no shortness"? We all know what to do with 12-14 and no shortness. You bid 4 Spades, following 2/1 philosophy of the more you bid the less you have, (fast arrival).

With extra values, bid 3 of your suit with exactly 15-16 HCP and 3NT with 17-18 HCP. That way partner can gauge what to do with more precision. The other biggie is if you hold 19+HCP, just bid Blackwood.

Nancy's hand is just barely in range (after my 15-16 point response) for a cue bid or is it? How could she show that we still may have a slam without overstating her values?

The way I like to play is for a cue bid by Nancy's hand to show a really good hand and almost be a slam force. How does she show the actual hand that she holds? She could bid 3NT, promising useful values, but not enough to cue bid. 3NT can never be natural since we have agreed on Spades. If my points were "junky," (Q's and J's), then I would subside in 4 Spades over 3NT. Otherwise, with my actual hand, Blackwood would get the job done.

A lot of you just play bridge for the ability to converse with and see friends. Maybe you enjoy the snacks at the local game. The pandemic has put a temporary (we hope) end to this scenario. By writing this article, I hope to help those who are serious about raising your game to the next level, while we are locked into BBO. For the rest, don't worry about it. Make everything as simple as possible and have a good time playing.



# RED ALERT

## Updates to ACBL's Alert Procedure

By Danny Sprung and Jeff Ford | ACBL Competition and Conventions Committee

The ACBL Board of Directors unanimously approved a comprehensive update to the ACBL Alert Procedure at their November meeting, the first major overhaul in 20 years. The new procedures go into effect Jan. 1, 2021. The full document is available at [acbl.org](http://acbl.org) under the Tournament tab. Look for the green Alert Procedures tab.

**B**ridge has never been a game of secret agreements. Your opponents are entitled to know just as much about what your bids mean as you do. Alerts have always been about making that process easier. Whether or not a call requires an Alert, you have an obligation to explain all of your partnership understandings related to that call upon the request of an opponent.

### Pre-Alerts

The first changes are at the beginning of the round. As before, you must pre-Alert the opponents if you play canape methods or different systems depending on seat or vulnerability (but not just because you play different ranges for opening 1NT). Additionally you now are required to pre-Alert if you play a system that includes at least one one-level opening bid that is not natural or that is forcing. This can be as simple as saying, "We play a strong club" or "We play 1♣ could be short." You are no longer required to pre-Alert if you lead low from small doubletons. However, if you play this, it must be included in your answer when a declarer asks about your leads and carding.

### Alert changes

The new Alert procedure starts from the principle that natural calls are not Alerted, and that artificial calls are Alerted. It then gives the deviations from that principle, spelling out the natural calls that must be Alerted (for example, a response to a one-level opening bid that is not forcing), and the artificial calls that do not require Alerts (for example, Stayman). The most common calls that have had their Alertability changed are as follows:

- In an uncontested auction, no natural jumpshift (whether weak, intermediate or strong) requires an Alert.
- A direct cuebid that is not Michaels (showing both majors over a minor, or a major and an unspecified minor over a major) requires an Alert.

- Support doubles and redoubles no longer require an Alert.
- An opening 2♣ bid that does not meet the definition of Very Strong requires an Alert. (This tends to apply to partnerships who agree to open 2♣ on hands with good playing strength, but many fewer high cards than normal. See the Convention Chart for the exact definition to see if it applies to you.)



### Announcement changes

There were also a few changes to Announcements, with the biggest change for transfers. Instead of saying the word "transfer," the Announcement is now the name of the suit being transferred to. For example, in the auction 1NT-2♥, where partner's 2♥ showed spades, instead of Announcing "transfer," you will now Announce "spades."

This Announcement is used in any situation where your partner is showing length in a specific other suit, as well as for doubles or redoubles that show the next suit up.

For example, if you play that 2♠ shows clubs in the auction 1NT-2♠, then you would announce "clubs."

However, if you play that 2♠ shows either minor in the auction 1NT-2♠, then you must say "Alert," even if the 1NT opener is expected to always bid clubs.

An example of the rule for doubles is if you play that after a 1♣ opening is overcalled with 1♦, that a double shows hearts (and says nothing about spades as a traditional negative double would), then you would announce "hearts" when your partner doubled. Traditional negative doubles are never Alerted or Announced.

Instead of saying "could be short" for a non-forcing minor-suit opening that might contain fewer than three cards, you must say the minimum number of cards in the suit, as in "Could be one."

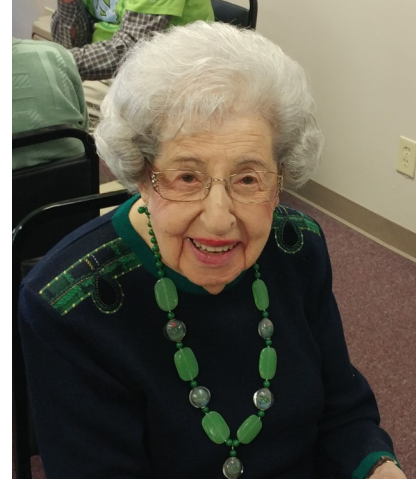
If you have the agreement to routinely bypass a four-card spade suit to bid a forcing or semi-forcing 1NT over 1♥, then you add "could have four spades" to the "forcing" or "semi-forcing" Announcement. This is most likely applicable to pairs playing Flannery.

### Delayed Alerts

The rules for delayed Alerts have slightly changed, with the main difference being that at the end of the auction, the declaring side should explain any delayed Alerts and

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## PEARL TURNS 102!



### **ALERT** *continued from page 35*

point out any control bids that were made during the auction without a requirement for the defense to ask about them. By having the declaring side explain these calls without prompting, there should be fewer cases of the person not on lead asking about calls before they should.

### **Learning curve**

In any time of change, there will be people who make honest mistakes try-

ing to apply the new rules, and there are no automatic penalties for making a mistake. As with the old rules, be guided by the principle that the goal of the Alert procedure is to let the opponents know what you play.

*Our sincere thanks to fellow committee members for their work on this project:*

*Tom Carmichael, Greg Herman,  
Michael Rosenberg, Matt Smith and  
Sol Weinstein. ☺*

Thanks to **Ed Fuller** for sending the article—(apologies, a bit blurry) it's important for everyone to be aware of these changes and be ready when clubs meet again face to face. Let's all help to make the lives of our directors a bit easier.

Dorothea Wilson's husband recently passed after a long illness. On behalf of the unit, we send our sincere sympathy.

Pearl is turning 102 on May 18. Let's flood her with cards and/or phone calls—let's make her 102nd an extra special one!

Pearl Schechter

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The Bright Leaf Alert is the official publication for Unit 191.

Please send ideas or suggestions to any board member or

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Special thanks to **Ed Fuller**— for his unending supply of articles.

**Randy Joyce**—for always coming up with interesting and helpful articles to improve our bridge game.