

THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

JUNE 2021



Face-to-Face Bridge is Back, Join Us!

Thank you for responding to our recent survey. We received 279 responses, here is a synopsis of the results:

- 275/279 were fully vaccinated and two out the remaining four will be fully vaccinated before we start club games.
- 65% are ready to play, 26% are not sure, 7% said no, and three preferred not to answer.
- 60% will play once a week, 35% will play 2-3 times per week, and 4% will play 4-5 times/per week.
- A third prefers to play either open or limited games and the last third prefers to play in both.
- 59% will play or might play in limited Swiss games.

In the comments/suggestions question, the members overwhelmingly supported proof of vaccination and many indicated being uncomfortable playing twenty-four boards wearing a mask.

Based on these results and the most recent CDC guidelines for fully vaccinated people, we decided on three requirements for returning to face-to-face games at Triangle Bridge Academy:

1) Show proof of full vaccination. You MUST show your vaccination card before your first game.

2) Wearing a mask is optional.

3) Sign a COVID liability release waiver. Please bring the signed waiver to your first game.

[Click to download and sign](#) the waiver

We will be adding games in phases. Phase I starts on June 8 & 9, for two weeks:

Tuesday, June 8 - Open & 0-750 at 12:30 pm

Wednesday, June 9 - Open & 0-750 at 12:30 pm

In the upcoming weeks, we will be adding various limited and Barometer games.

No food will be offered, just coffee and water. Soft drinks are available for purchase.

On game day, please arrive 20 minutes before game time to show your vaccination card and to submit the signed liability release waiver.

Virtual Games

Both TBC and The Bridge Academy will continue to offer online games until further notice.

Sincerely,

Triangle Bridge Academy

P.S. Apologies—the link to the waiver does not work. Try the link in the email Triangle Bridge Academy sent, or arrive early and sign the waiver

From the President.....

It's time! We are all hopeful that we are coming to the end of the pandemic. The Bridge Clubs are re-opening and have announced June game dates for in person competition. The ACBL has published safety guidelines and will resume face-to-face tournament play at the end of the summer. Please pay attention to the rules and requirements of individual clubs and be respectful of everyone's choices and decisions. We all want to stay healthy and safe. Stay tuned for changing schedules for in person and virtual club games. We will try to keep the Unit webpage up to date with the evolving schedules.

That said - There has been a **Pearl** sighting! On May 18th, I celebrated my April birthday with friends on the patio at one of my favorite restaurants in Chapel Hill and I was thrilled to be able to see Pearl (celebrating her 102nd birthday) and her family and friends. Pearl was the last person that I partnered with in a face-to-face game on March 10, 2020. It was such fun to see her again. I look forward to seeing more of you soon!

Deanna Larus, Unit President

Happy Birthday Claire!

Claire Sobel turns 94 years young on June 2.

On behalf of the unit, a very happy birthday!

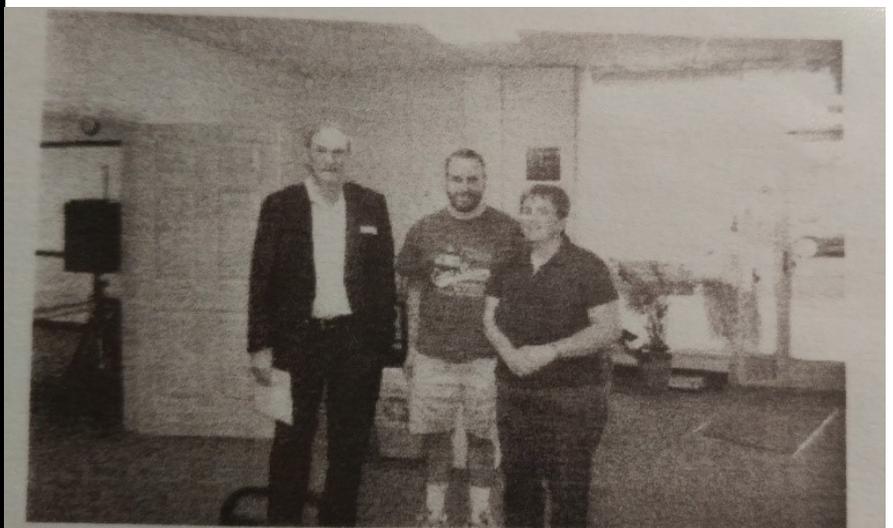
(We would love to hear from other nonagenarians who have reached significant milestones)

From the archives—June, 2011

ACBL President, **Craig Robinson**, has committed to visit "100 clubs in 100 days" this summer. One of the first clubs he stopped at on his nationwide tour was Triangle Bridge Club in Durham, and he proved his playing ability by pairing up with Jay Bates to take first overall with a very nice 70 percent game.

Craig has been keeping a log of his travels which you can see at www.acbl.org. Here are his comments on his visit to Durham.

"They recently held a sectional at Triangle Bridge Club and had 63 tables at one session. How many bridge clubs can hold 63 tables? Jay and Darleen Bates own the club and direct games. Jay is a part-time TD with the ACBL. Everyone brought food and they had 17 tables. The unit has been growing and no wonder with the programs available for teaching new players and various games offered once a week at the club."



♠ **Come Play with Us!** ♠

♥ as a Mentee or Mentor ♦

The □ **May Flowers** □ **Mentee-Mentor Game** was hosted by **Triangle Bridge** on the evening of Friday, May 14th. Thanks to all who came out to play. We had 18 pairs in the mentee-mentor game, challenging hands, and a delightful time!

Our hearty congratulations to the game's leaderboard:

Renee Getz & Emily Hungerford, 1st overall & 1st EW with 59.31%.

Jacqueline Garcia & Joyce Jenzano, 2nd overall & 1st NS with 58.08%.

Anne Anderson & Jane Kiernan, 3rd overall & 2nd NS with 56.25%.

Nina Shor & Kay Richardson, 4th overall & 2nd EW with 55.06%.

Steve Dong & Bob Dunas, 5th overall & 3rd NS with 54.17%.

Jill Koury & Jim Rhew, 6th overall & 3rd EW with 51.74%.

We gave back to the local community in this time of need. **\$3** of each player's game fee, or **\$108**, 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

evening, June 12th, 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.*

The Raleigh Bridge Club's Mentor-Mentee game is this Sunday evening , May 30th

Contact Doug Holbrook: doug.holbrook@hotmail.com

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**": 12-14

12. **WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO - DO IT.** Don't make partner guess.

13. **BID YOUR LONG SUITS - DON'T MAKE A TAKEOUT DOUBLE.**

14. **BID YOUR 5-CARD MAJORS - DON'T MAKE A TAKEOUT DOUBLE.**

A C B L UNIT 191 R E P O R T

Includes all transactions processed 3/31/21 through 4/30/21

Total Members - 596

NEW MEMBER—**James W. Grant**

TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

Edy R. Bulthuis - from Unit # 118 - Wilmington

Dixie Hapgood - from Unit # 160 - South Carolina

Mrs. Norma R. Lande—from Unit # 108 - Eastern Massachusetts

TRANSFERS OUT OF UNIT 191

Trenna S. Corey New Unit # 118 - Wilmington

Steven M. Fine New Unit # 128 - Florida

Sharon D. Flicker New Unit # 119 - North State

John Gibson New Unit # 218 - Northern Virginia

NEW JUNIOR MASTER—**Paul Clark**

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER— **Michael L. Lavine**

NEW LIFE MASTER—**Joyce H. Herr**

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER—**Karen H. Calhoun**

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

William H. McCartney

Linda B. Owen

John D. Sommer

Submitted by **Phylliss Woody**, Membership Chair May, 2021

Unit 191 members please check the Directory on our unit website (unit191bridge.org) and report to me (pwoody@unc.edu, (919) 612-7711) any changes or corrections that need to be made. Please remember Contact information in this directory is provided as a courtesy to Unit 191 members.

Unauthorized use of this information is forbidden.

A Well Bid Hand Is Its own Reward

By Randy Joyce

Along with everyone else, the pandemic caused me to alter my usual schedule. One of the things that I changed was to get up at 3:00 - 4:00 in the mornings and putter around looking for odds and ends to do. I found that perusing the results of local games not only brought a little light humor to my attention, but also was an avenue for finding some real Gold Nuggets in bidding, play, and defense.

The following hand, to this point, is my front runner for "Best Bid Hand of the Year." This superlative auction was conducted by our very own **Chris Moll and Mariee Walton** at a Thursday Night RBC game.

The North hand in question was:

S....KQJxx

H...Ax

D...KQxx

C... xx

Opener chose 1 Spade rather than 1NT because of the good 5 card major and the small doubleton Club, and, perhaps the 5-2-4-2 shape.

South held:

S...Axx

H...xxx

D..AJTx

C...AKx

and bid a game forcing 2 Diamonds. North raised Diamonds to the 3 level and South bid 3 Spades. Remember that in 2/1, the less you bid, the more you have. After a 2/1 has been made, the partnership now uses space as economically as possible to conduct a precise auction.

Let's change the South hand slightly and take out the Club K. In that event, South should just bid 4 Spades over 3 Diamonds to show a minimum 2/1 and to start slowing the boat down before it capsizes.

(continued)

Over 3 Spades, the bigger bid, North bid 4 Hearts, his lowest Ace. People ask me all the time if I bid my lowest control or my lowest A when I start cue bidding. I tell them that it will save a lot of heartbreak if they make their first cue bid an Ace and then bid a control (King or singleton) after that. At this point, South had enough information to bid 4NT, Key Card Blackwood.

North responded 5 Spades which showed 2 Key Cards and the trump Q. One of the greatest bidding refinements in bridge is the ability to show the Queen of trumps over Blackwood, either directly or after a subsequent ask. In this case, asker got both the information about keycards and the presence of the trump queen. South now bid 5NT which guaranteed all the first round controls plus the Q of trumps and asked for specific Kings.

North answered with 6 Diamonds showing the Diamond K. This bid denied the club King and said, "My lowest King is the King of diamonds." South had no way of asking for the Diamond Q, so she settled for 6 Spades.

The spotlight now pans over to North. He has the following information. The South hand has EXACTLY 3 Spades. With 4 or more Spades, South would ALWAYS start with Jacoby 2NT over 1 Spade. South must have 4+ Diamonds. Sometimes, you are dealt 3-4-3-3 distribution over 1 Spade. You can't bid Jacoby (only 3 trumps), you can't bid 2 Hearts (promises 5) so you have to bid a 3-card Club suit to get the ball rolling. There is NEVER a hand that a 2 Diamond bid over 1 Spade would show less than 4.

At this point in the auction North could Pass, and they would earn a little above average score, or he (could try to improve the contract) and could make a great bid for a top. Seven Diamonds, said North, willing to play the 4-4 fit. He realized that the 5-3 Spade suit would provide pitches for the side losers in South's hand.

The downside is that if South only has 4 Diamonds, then a 4-1 trump split would probably spell doom. I think that the risk/ reward on this hand fully justifies going on. Diamonds were 3-2, and the grand rolled home.

The inevitable question that I get asked is "What if it makes 7 Spades or 7NT?" My short and sweet answer is in the form of a question - "Have you ever gotten a bad score for bidding and making a 7 level contract?" If you are going to play at the 7 level, always play the safest contract available.

As it turned out, it was a COLD TOP for N/S. Well done, Chris and Mariee!!