

# THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

AUGUST 2021

I am so happy to see so many people returning to the Triangle Bridge Academy. Approximately 130 people thus far have checked in to an in-person club game since the phased re-opening began. All are vaccinated. Some wear masks. Some do not. Everyone is respectful and so happy to see old friends! Just yesterday, they had 11 ½ tables at the afternoon game! Fearington Bridge Club and Governor's Club Bridge Club are back in play as well.

The Board has begun preparing for our Unit Sectional scheduled for November 11-14, 2021, and for our Unit Board Elections in November. As such, we are looking for volunteers to run for election to our Unit Board of Directors. This group of individuals helps with decision making for our Unit and organizing our membership for the good of all. We need you! Our nominating committee will soon be reaching out to Unit members to join our leadership group starting in December. Please consider joining me as a member of the Board. Unit 191 is a great group of people and when each Unit member contributes – we all benefit. Chris Moll is chairing our Nominating committee. If you would like to know more, please contact him at Triangle Bridge Academy or committee members Donna Walther and Phylliss Woody. Thank you.

## **Beware!**

Over the past few years, members of the ACBL, especially Board members and Club Managers, have been a target of scam email messages. These messages are

sent requesting help or money from one Unit member to another. Personally, I have dealt with this as Unit president for two years. Someone sends emails supposedly from me (NOT!) to another Unit member asking for help – usually it asks the recipient to purchase gift cards for some fake reason and vows to reimburse the recipient later. You can easily identify the scam emails by checking the sender's email address. Just hover your cursor over the name of the sender and check the email address. Several people have been snared by this scam. If you suspect an email, I advise you to phone the sender to confirm the request. Verify...verify...verify! Don't fall victim to the thieves.

## **Bridge Reminders!**

ACBL still requires players to announce the point range for 1NT opening bids. While some BBO games let us assume 15-17 point range, the ACBL still requires this announcement. That has been one of the hardest things to remember as we return to face-to-face bridge: Alerting and Announcing our partner's bids when warranted. New Minor Forcing, Puppet Stayman, Inverted Minor Bids – we now have to remember to respond appropriately when our partner makes a special bid. Get back in the habit!

**Deanna Larus**

Unit 191 President

# ACBL UNIT MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Includes all transactions processed 5/31/2021  
through 7/1/2021

Total Members—598

## NEW MEMBERS

**Sandra Elliott**

**Edward Fuchs**

## TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

**David Grant** (from #119—North State)

**Sharron Grant** (from #119—North State)

**Diane Henson** (from #178—Viking Bridge)

**Larry Henson** (from #178—Viking Bridge)

**Gopi Mehrotra** (from #168—Central Penn  
Bridge Association )

## NEW CLUB MASTER

**Linda Taylor**

## NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

**Catherine Garland**

## NEW NABC MASTER

**Karen Popovich**

## NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

**Eileen Bok**

## NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

**Katie Wilson**

## NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

**Joyce Jenzano**

## DECEASED

**Patricia Owens**

**Herb Fussman**

Membership report is submitted by:

**Phylliss Woody**, Membership Chair. July  
2021

Unit 191 members please check the Directory on  
our unit website ([unit191bridge.org](http://unit191bridge.org)) and report to  
me ([pwoody@unc.edu](mailto: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 forbid-  
den.**

## From the archives.....

August, 2021

- UNC team finishes 2nd in the collegiate team  
championship at Toronto
- Unit 191 summer sectional sets attendance rec-  
ord with 343 tables and 434 players partici-  
pating
- Mary Vickers wins the Bright Leaf Award at the  
sectional with a total of 17.17 oiubts. Mary be-  
comes the 51st winner of the award (formerly  
the Hugo Germino award)
- Unit 191 was well represented in the national  
top 25 listings for Ace of Clubs: 0-5 - Jackie  
Marks was 13th and Joyce Jenzano was 16th; 5-  
20 - Dave Schreiber was 6th and Dave  
Streifford was 13th' 20-50 - Dorothea Wilson  
was 25th; 1000-2500 - Howard Su was 21st  
and Henry Meguid was 22nd
- Barbara Haskell and Sharon Crane, co-chairs of  
the mentoring program, are looking for  
mentees and mentors for the year beginning  
Sept. 1 through May.

# ♠ Come Play with Us! ♣

## ♥ as a Mentee or Mentor ♦

The **Independence Mentee-Mentor Game** was hosted by **Triangle Bridge** on the evening of July 9th. 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:

**Jill Koury & Lynda McDaniel**, 1<sup>st</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> NS with 60.42%.  
**Susan Overcash & Sue Little**, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> EW with 58.04%.  
**Reece Schuler & Liz Schuler**, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall & 2<sup>nd</sup> NS with 57.74%.  
**Rich Schneider & Maggie Lindquist**, 4<sup>th</sup> overall & 3<sup>rd</sup> NS with 56.55%.  
**Karen Popovich & Lance Shull**, 5<sup>th</sup> overall & 4<sup>th</sup> NS with 55.65%.  
**Ralph Balzac & Gary Zadjeka**, 6<sup>th</sup> overall & 2<sup>nd</sup> EW with 54.46%.  
**Gerri Stanczyk & Randy Poindexter**, 7<sup>th</sup> overall & 3<sup>rd</sup> EW with 52.98%.

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, **August 14<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, & Donna Walther** (Board Liaison)  
Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

World Grand Master Kate McCallum's "46 Bridge Rules To Live By": 18-19

18. **WITH WEAKNESS, DON'T PLAY IN NO TRUMPS ♣ FIND A TRUMP FIT.** When we have around half the high cards (or less), no spots, and no source of tricks, we'll usually take more tricks in a trump suit, even when both hands are balanced. Therefore, don't pass 1NT openings with bad hands, unless you must.
19. **FOUR-OF-A-PREVIOUSLY-BID-MAJOR IS ALWAYS TO PLAY.** Not a cue-bid ♣ never!

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## FACE TO FACE BRIDGE

I am very interested in this subject. What we need is the ACBL to shut down all virtual clubs. FtF clubs can't compete with them and they can't succeed with people even playing in both. Virtual clubs were great during the pandemic but now they lack the comfort of home, the lack of travel, and the cost reduction. The Board of Directors make the decision this week I believe and hopefully they won't screw it up. I believe that if clubs drop in attendance; tournaments will follow. That will hurt the ACBL financially. Teaching will slacken and membership will suffer. Encourage a club near you to open, then support them and enjoy the game!

**Craig Robinson**

## Eleven Dollars Is Too Much

*Anonymous*

Why are our local games in Durham so small? Whether it is or isn't, people think that eleven dollars is too much.

Can the clientele afford that price? Probably an infinitesimal percentage cannot. If they can afford the current cost, what's the big deal? They feel "had," "conned," taken advantage of, etc. They know that across the state and the eastern part of the United States, the cost for a face-to-face duplicate game is roughly five to eight dollars.

Why is theirs more? A lot more. The proprietors of the Triangle Bridge Academy think that traffic will bear what they have set as their price. Maybe it will, but so far, not in large numbers. Many thinkers in our club agree that there would be twice as many tables at seven dollars per person. You do the math.

A larger game is more fun and to everyone's advantage. More points and bigger tops for the players, and more money for the managers. Can we try it the other way?

## COULD F2F AND ONLINE GAMES BE COMBINED?

I would like to suggest an additional "opportunity" for reopening club games. Provide a separate "section" in your game for the on-line BBO players. This section could begin perhaps 30 minutes after your face-to-face games. At the end of the game, you could provide section results and then, if BBO could enable it, combine the sections, much as you have always done with limited and open games. Final "results" could be delayed if necessary for the game that finishes first.

This would provide those of us who are unable, or "too lazy" to drive, the opportunity to continue play at your game, rather than at the ACBL national game and would, of course, enhance your income opportunities.

If the software from BBO doesn't support this, perhaps you could add your voices to them to have them do so. I doubt that this would be a very difficult "fix".

**Tom Roberg**



**ACBL's DILEMMA – VIRTUAL GAMES VERSUS FACE-TO-FACE GAMES (I have gotten a lot of comments in support of the following statements - I thought I would repeat them once more).**

First, not everyone will agree with this, but ACBL will cease to exist in a long timeframe without Face-to-Face bridge. This is simply because the volume of new players has and will always come from Local Clubs and Teachers across the country. Without the strength of the local clubs the process of catching the eye of the community to entice them to come take lessons is unproductive or at least sub-optimal.

Without a steady stream of new players, clubs will die. There is a very real attrition rate in our bridge community and Covid did not help. The good news is we WERE seeing a bridge renaissance in many areas prior to Covid.

During Covid, ACBL and BBO worked together to 1) keep the players engaged and did a VERY good job of maintaining the player base's community connections/passion; and 2) found a method to provide financial support for a LOT of clubs (but unfortunately not all) – through Virtual Clubs.

It worked very well. Maybe too well. Players came to enjoy the convenience of online bridge and it was SAFE. Players with mobility issues and caregiver issues found a bridge life they thought was becoming out of reach. Lots of players thoroughly enjoyed the events and contests that kept them occupied during the pandemic.

Now that the end of the pandemic is either in sight or at least conceptually around the corner, many players feel they do not want to give up their Virtual experience. And they should not be forced to choose one over another.

This, as Greg Cole of ACBL recently astutely stated, is very analogous to the era when online shopping started to compete with brick-and-mortar retail. We all know that times change. You just cannot un-ring the bell.

I visualize a future where both Virtual Clubs and Face-To-Face clubs both co-exist. Neither are going to go away.

For this reason, however, you are going to stop seeing the events that we have had up until now. The Silver Linings Events and the Stardust Events (silver and gold masterpoints) are simply TOO enticing. What I mean is that while it has been GREAT, logically, you are unlikely to see events in the future that ENCOURAGE players to AVOID Face-To-Face because of the Events being offered. I expect you will see normal Masterpoint bonus events but not pigmented events. By the end of the year, you will see the former 50% bonus, which is now a 25% bonus, drift down to no bonus.

This is simply to level the playing field to help Face-To-Face clubs to recover. We certainly have a vested interest in the health and well-being of the Virtual Clubs, but LIVE CLUBS MUST SURVIVE. I am very grateful that this solution was created (almost overnight).

When I say that the Stardust event

- is your last chance at Virtual Club Gold Masterpoints, you now can understand where that is coming from. North American Pairs has always been available to clubs BUT only in June, July, and August.

Lastly, thank you all for being part of our Virtual Bridge Community. We have enjoyed this journey together and WE DO PLAN TO CONTINUE OFFERING VIRTUAL BRIDGE for a LONG TIME. (this is a bit to rambling but it too late at night to straighten it out.

Net-Net: Support your local clubs and play with us when you want to play online.

(Written by Kevin Wilson, Co-Manager of the Knoxville Club). Thanks to Randy and Kay for the article and seeking his permission to print in our newsletter.



# Triangle Bridge Academy Summer Future Life Master Sectional

## August 6-8, 2021



**Tournament Chair:**  
Chris Moll  
(504) 495-7485

**Partnerships:**  
Henry Mequid  
(919) 724-6239

**Covid Requirements:**  
Proof-of-Vaccination  
Required  
Must sign liability  
waiver  
Masks are optional

**Fri & Sat, August 6-7 10:00am and \*\* 2:30pm \*\***

**Stratified Pairs: 0-50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)  
0-NLM (0-100, 100-300, 300-NLM )**

**\*\* Regionally Rated, More Silver Points Fri/Sat 2:30 pm \*\***



**Sun, August 8 10:00 am and TBA**

**Stratified Swiss  
0-NLM (0-100, 100-300, 300-NLM )**



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