

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – MAY 2022



Thoughts from the President:

Last week I went to Gatlinburg for my first regional tournament in over two years! While smaller than normal, it was great to see bridge friends that I haven't seen in what feels like forever. I was thrilled to see many local players there. I am already planning my summer and trying to schedule more regional tournaments. At our local clubs, many people are happy to be back playing bridge in person. Some wear masks. Others do not. A personal choice. We want everyone healthy and playing bridge.

In May, we have several special events.

- First the entire month is Grass Roots Fund month. **Extra masterpoints are awarded** and the funds raised during these special games go back to the local districts to support the Grand National Teams events and the North American Pairs competition.
- On May 9th, we will celebrate members' achievements during 2021 with a party at Triangle Bridge Academy. The celebration will begin at noon with a brief ceremony and the 2021 annual meeting for our unit followed by a special Unit Championship game at 12:40. Join us to honor our friends on that day. Let there be cake!!!!
- At the end of May, Unit 119 (Raleigh area) will host their normal regional tournament from May 23-29th at the North Raleigh Hilton. Hope to see you all there!
- Upcoming – The Unit will soon announce some special limited games in the coming weeks. Stay tuned to the unit website for more information about these opportunities.

I hope each of you stay happy and healthy, and that you get good cards in your games in the coming weeks.

"Many games provide fun, but Bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but Bridge prevents the rust from forming."

Martina Navratilova

Deanna Larus,
President Unit 191

Member Spotlight – Barry Deutsch



Barry Deutsch was born in Philadelphia and raised in New York. He went to college in Philadelphia, earning a bachelor's and two master's degrees and returned there after his Army service. He has lived there, in Pittsburgh, in Warsaw, Poland and South Florida. He has been a resident of Durham for just over one year. During the Covid-enforced lockdown of clubs he played on BBO with a partner in Nashville Tennessee. When clubs re-opened, he returned to face masked to face masked bridge.

Now retired, for most of his working life he was in banking or bank consulting. He has been on the Board of a Hospital, a Synagogue, the American Jewish Committee, the American Bankers Association, a Public Theater, and a Bridge Club. The highest position he held in banking was as President of Bank PEKAO in Warsaw, where he was awarded a Doctor of Science in Economics degree. He began playing bridge while serving in the Army and is now a Bronze Life Master. He and his late wife were partners for 30 years, losing often but defying common wisdom by never going to bed angry about a bridge hand. In addition to Bridge, he is a 32^o Scottish Rite Mason, a Shriner, a member of the American Legion, and an avid baseball fan.

ACBL Unit 191 Membership Report

Includes all transactions processed 2/28/22 through 4/01/22

Total Members - 555

NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn Hartman
Eileen Sanchez

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Pam Caruso

TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

Mark A Baskir
Old Unit # 242 - Nassau Suffolk
Cheryl D Chandler
Old Unit # 119 - North State
Anne P Wagg
Old Unit # 169 - Central Carolina

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Marian M Meyer
Tony Meyer
Lori R Scanga

NEW LIFE MASTER

Renee M Getz
Sandra B Irby

TRANSFERRED OUT OF UNIT

Linda H Taylor
New Unit # 169 - Central Carolina

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Alan M Feigenbaum

DECEASED

Kenneth Dye
Philip Erlenbach

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Sally Foushee

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

Phylliss Woody,
Membership Chair

Mentoring Program News

♠♥ **Come Play with Us in May** as a Mentee or Mentor! ♦♣

The Unit 191 Mentoring Program started April with an **in-person Club Charity Championship Game** on **April 5th** and finished with an **online game** on **April 15th**. **Thanks to all who came out to play.** The hands were challenging, the competition was excellent and tough, and all had a delightful time!

On **Tuesday afternoon, April 5th** we had four tables. A **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard**:

Eileen Bok & Leslie Blair, 1st overall with a *whopping* 68.25%
Beverly Craig & Deanna Larus, 2nd overall with 59.52%
Barbara Bute & Chris Moll, 3rd overall with 54.76%

On **Friday evening, April 15th** we had five tables. A **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard**:

Dwight Smith & Gary Zadjeka, 1st overall with a *respectable* 64.88%
Beverly Craig & Ed Fuller, 2nd overall with 60.71%
Larry Stanczyk & Nancy Sparks, 3rd overall with 55.36%
Gerri Stanczyk & Randy Poindexter, 4th overall with 49.40%

We gave back **\$3** of each player's online game fee to the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina** in this time of need: **\$60** is to be donated.

Please join us

- for a **face-to-face mentee-mentor game** at **12:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, May 3rd**, at **Triangle Bridge Academy**, 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd., Suite 102, Durham, NC (the game will be preceded by a 20-minute lesson at 12:00 noon), and
- for an **online mentee-mentor game** at **7:00 p.m.** on **Friday, May 20th** hosted by **Triangle Bridge on BBO (VACB252858)**, or

- **for both games.**

*** PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO PLAY ***

*** If you would like to play and *need a mentor*, let us know ***

Play every card well,
Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, and Maggie Lindquist
Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee
Donna Walther (Board Liaison)

Why use Lebensohl?

by Ian Cloudsdale

The Lebensohl convention is, at first, daunting to learn and a pain to remember. If your partnership gets mixed up, you can end up in some catastrophes! However, if used correctly, it can be extremely useful to deal with the opponents' interference, finding a major suit fit, finding the correct strain, and the level to play a partial score, or finding game in NT or elsewhere.

I like to say that Lebensohl is a way of **putting the brakes on!** This alerts me to the use of the system. The convention is much more than a brake, but thinking in this way, allows me to quickly categorize my partner's bids at the table.

Lebensohl can be used in a number of general situations, but these three are the most common usages.

1. When your partner opens 1NT and the opponents interfere, you may be weak and want to stop your partner from being too aggressive. You may want to explore for a major suit fit, but stop below game, or explore for a game in 3N or elsewhere.
2. After the opponents open with a weak two bid and partner doubles, you again want to find the correct strain and level to play at.
3. To slow down your partner after they have made a reverse (strong) bid

In all these situations, the Lebensohl system pivots about the 2NT bid. The 2NT pivot is used to distinguish strong and weak/invitational hands and to tell your partner whether you have a stopper in the opponent's bid suit.

When I first started learning the convention, my partner and I only used it after 1NT interference, and, because it did not come up frequently, I forgot the system way, way too often at first. However, after incorporating the convention to deal with the weak two interference bids as well, because of

the similarities of the bidding, it became a lot easier to remember because there were many more opportunities to use it! I recommend that if you do want to try Lebensohl, go all in and use it over at least conditions 1 and 2 above.

So, there are 3 main things to absorb, and an agreement to be drawn which is shown on your convention card in the 1NT section shown as **Lebensohl** □ (denies) – so all bids are alerted! Typically, most partnerships agree to **use the direct bid to deny a stopper in the opponent's suit**. Direct Denies a stopper, or (**fast denies**). Then,

- When partner has bid 1NT, a bid at the 3-level shows 10+ HCP or more. When partner has doubled a weak two, a bid at the 3-level shows 8+ hcp.
 - A direct bid of the opponent's suit or 3NT denies a stopper.
- Bidding 2NT is a relay bid and forces partner to bid 3♣ (an exception is when partner has doubled with 18+ hcp). After 3♣ you can now show a strong or weak hand and/or show a stopper in the bid suit.
- Any bid below 2NT OR after using the 2NT relay, bidding a suit below the interference suit at the 3-level shows a weak hand.

For more detailed discussion these two links are well worth reviewing
https://www.bridgebum.com/lebensohl_after_1nt.php.

This second part has a more detailed discussion of using the convention after a weak two

https://www.bridgebum.com/lebensohl_over_weak_two.php.

That's it in a nutshell.

Many times, the 1NT interference shows a two-suited hand. There are suggestions on the web how to deal with [two suited overcalls](#), and more modern bridge theorists also use transfer [Transfer Lebensohl](#) also known as Rubensohl.

Some pairs also use Lebensohl after the opponents have bid a major to the 2-level and partner doubles, but this requires the partnership to have a detailed discussion about the use of the 2NT pivot. I hope this encourages you to investigate the convention some more and see if you and your partner might find it useful.

Hope you have fun at the table,
Ian

An Interesting Hand Is Played In Knoxville

By Randy Joyce

I recently encountered an interesting bidding and play problem from the BBO game in Knoxville. Here is the complete deal for reference.

	<u>North</u>	
	A8xx	
	Xxx	
	J9x	
	Axx	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
KJ97		X
xx		QJTxx
KQx		Xxxxx
98xx		KT
	<u>South</u>	
	QTxx	
	AKx	
	AT	
	QJxx	

For those of you who are not familiar with the Knoxville games, they are quite a bit bigger than the average local game. You have to take a few more chances and play some speculative contracts to hope to score well.

Kay and I play a Weak NT (11-14) except in two instances. One is 3rd seat vulnerable and the other is 4th seat vulnerable. I sat South and happened to be Vulnerable in 3rd seat. I opened 1NT with my 16, and after a Pass, it was Kay's turn to bid.

She wanted to invite game, but did not know whether to bid Stayman or not. Her hand pattern augers for NT, so she invited with 2NT. A hand with 4-3-3-3 distribution, with no fillers, frequently plays as well or better than a 4-4 Major fit. When you don't have a ruffing value, and you have the advantage of being one trick lower, 3NT is often a more successful contract.

I had the hand that I always hold: not a clear accept, but what-the-heck-you don't-score-big by languishing in 2NT. My bid of 3NT would be clear Vulnerable in a team game, but it is only so-so at pairs.

I received the 7 of Spades opening lead, 4th best. If you use the Rule of 11, (subtract the spot led from 11 and that tells you how many cards are above the one led, distributed in the other three hands). You quickly come to the

conclusion that the 8 will win the lead in dummy. So, I played it and was in the Dummy.

Many beginners think that a finesse is only when you lead a big card and have it either be covered or not. In this case, the finesse is not to get to your hand to lead a big Club, but to hope that the Club K is on your right. If it is on your right, then you will take the hoped for 3 Club tricks. On a low Club lead out of Dummy, East wins the K. So far, so good.

East now switches to the Heart Q. What should you do? Your goal on this hand is to hope to strip West of his exit cards and throw him in for a Spade end-play. You should duck the Heart to begin eliminating West's exits. East leads another Heart, and you win your King or Ace.

Now you take the Q of Clubs out of your hand and lead another one to the Ace in the dummy. You now have to make the Key play and lead a Diamond to the Ten. When West wins an honor in Diamonds, he will think that he is endplayed. That is what I did at this point. West didn't want to give me another Diamond trick, so he safely exited with his last Club. I now cashed the Heart K and what was West to do? If he pitched a little Diamond, my Ace would fell his other big one and if he pitched a Spade, I could concede a Spade and take my game going trick in that suit. 3NT bid and made for a 97% score!!!

With a few more enterprising hands like this one, we were quite pleased to come in first overall.