

# BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – NOVEMBER 2022



## President's Corner:

### We Need Your Help!

Our Unit traditionally organizes three annual sectional tournaments as a means of offering members the opportunity to compete for high level masterpoints. In years past, these tournaments also served as fundraisers for the Unit and the profits were used to offset the cost for special events such as the educational lecture series offered in 2019, small celebrations such as the June 2022 luncheon celebrating the merger of TBC and TBA, the Holiday Gala until 2020 which cost us more than \$50 per player and covering costs of the mentor/mentee program.

Since November 2021, we have tried to resume hosting these tournaments. The first – last November (2021) was amazingly well attended. Many bridge players within driving distance came to play and we were pleasantly surprised at our table count. In 2022, we have held two more tournaments – in March and July neither of which were profitable due to low attendance. In fact, we lost more than \$1000 at each tournament and very few Unit 191 members played in them. Next week, we are hoping for different results, but we need your help.

So – HOW CAN YOU HELP??????

1. Please try to play as many of the games as possible. To encourage this, the Unit Board has chosen to change the level of the Limited games. This time anyone with less than 750 masterpoints can play in the limited games (previously you had to have fewer than 500 masterpoints). We hope that this change will encourage many of our non-life master players to come and take advantage of the opportunity to earn silver points while playing amongst their peers. The schedule is included in this month's ALERT and is posted on the unit website and flyers are at the club.

"In bridge clubs and in councils of state, the passions are the same."

Omar Sharif:

2. We are also asking people to volunteer to help during the weekend. We need people to help with registration at the beginning of each session, hospitality helpers for each session to keep the coffee hot tea available and snacks plentiful, guaranteed partners so that everyone can play even if their regular partners are unable to do so. We also ask people to help make this tournament enjoyable by bringing fully prepared goodies such as cookies, cake, brownies, etc. so that all players can keep their strength up and play their best bridge! 😊 If you don't want to prepare something, you can also donate to the Unit and we will buy and prepare snacks for all. A donation envelope will go around at each club game starting on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. One special volunteer is needed. IF you do not want to play in the Sunday Swiss game, we need one person to organize and set up lunch for the players. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Ann Fisher ([afisher9tk@gmail.com](mailto:afisher9tk@gmail.com)) or Deanna Larus ([deanna@elarus.com](mailto:deanna@elarus.com)).

Keep in mind, the success of these tournaments helps all Unit 191 members not just tournament players. When the tournaments are successful, we have funds to host additional fun activities during the year. That could translate into more celebration luncheons, classes, special events, and/or game subsidies, etc. For example, we are planning a Holiday celebration for December 11<sup>th</sup> and a profitable tournament will help to offset the costs of that party. So please consider playing and volunteering your time next week so that we can put on the best event possible and in turn reap the benefits of doing so.

Any questions? Contact Ann Fisher or me.

Happy Thanksgiving! Amongst other things, I am thankful to be back playing bridge in person with my friends!

Deanna Larus,  
President Unit 191

# Fall for Bridge.... at Brightleaf Unit 191's Fall Sectional

**November 10 - 13, 2022**

**Triangle Bridge Academy  
2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd.,  
Durham, NC 919-808-8068**

**Thursday, November 10  
7PM Open and 749'er Swiss Teams**

**Friday, November 11  
10 AM & \*2:30 pm Open & 749er Pairs**

**Saturday, November 12  
10 AM & \*2:30 pm A/X, B/C/D & 749'er Pairs  
(\*both 2:30 games are regionally rated for silver points)**

**Sunday, November 13  
10 AM Open & 749'er Swiss Teams  
Play through with lunch available for purchase  
Stratification based on team MP average**

**Open Stratification:  
0-1000, 1000-3000, 3000+  
A/X 0-5000, 5000+  
B/C/D 0-1250, 1250-2000,  
2000-3000**

**Nearby Lodging:  
La Quinta Inn & Suites  
4414 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd.,  
Durham, NC  
Rate: \$118**

**Ask for ACBL Bridge Tournament Block by Oct. 27**

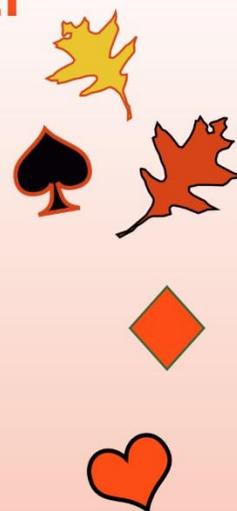
**749 Stratification:  
0-100, 100-300, 300-750**

**Tournament chair  
Ann Fisher (919) 417-7176  
afisher9tk@gmail.com**

**Partnership chair  
Chris Moll (504) 495-7485**



All ACBL protocols will be followed.



## **ITS ELECTION TIME**

Voting begins on November 1 for the 2023 Unit Board of Directors. Step-by-step instructions for electronic voting are outlined below. If you prefer to vote on paper, ballots will be available at Triangle Bridge Academy, or one can be mailed to you directly. Remember to get your votes recorded by November 23, 2022.

Vote for up to four of the candidates for the Unit 191 Board Directors. Ballots with more choices are invalid.



**Unit 191's  
Nomination/Election  
Committee offers  
two ways to vote:**

- **Online ballot** in the **Members Only** section of the unit website (see instructions below). Polls open November 1.
- **Paper ballot** from **Ann Fisher** from November 1 to November 22. Paper ballots must be received by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Instructions for accessing the Unit 191 online ballot and voting online:**

- Go to the unit website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>
- Select **Members Only** from the tabs on the left-hand side of the home page.
- Enter your ACBL Number or Email or Name
- Enter your password

If this is your first time using the "Members Only", click [Set/Reset Password].

**Note:** After you click [Set/Reset Password], you will get a prompt to **Send Set Password Email**. BridgeWebs will then send you an email with a link to reset your password. If you do not see the email in your inbox, check your Spam folder.

**Note:** This is a *unique personal password* that you create just for the Unit 191 website. It is not ACBL password for MyACBL on [acbl.org](http://acbl.org).

- Across the top of the **Members Only** page you will see several tabs. [For instance, the **Member List** tab is the current Unite 191 online directory.]
- Select the **Unit 191 Director Ballot** tab (currently on the far right).
- Vote for your candidates from the ballot. Vote for up to four candidates.
- Click **Cast Ballot** at the bottom of the ballot to cast your vote.
- You're done. Thank you!

## **November Game Schedule**

### **Triangle Bridge Academy**

Open face to face games:

Monday – Friday @ 12:30pm

Saturday @ 9:45am

Open online BBO games:

Monday, Wednesday @ 7:00pm

Play and review face to face Barometer game (under 300mps)

Friday @ 10:00am [Click here to RSVP](#)

Online learn and play

Monday @ 9:00am [Click here to register and pay](#)



### **Special games this month:**

October 31- November 6 Club Championship week

November 7-20 Upgraded Club Championship

November 21-27 Charity Club Championship

November 29-30 District Charity games

### **Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee game:**

*Face to face:* Tuesday November 1, 12:30pm

*Online BBO:* November 16, 7:00pm

### **Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):**

November 10-13, [Durham Sectional](#)

December 27-January 2 [North Charleston Regional](#)

January 16-22 [Pigeon Ford NLM Regional](#)

January 16-22 [Raleigh Sectional](#)

## Member Spotlight – Reese Schuler



Bridge has come into my life in three phases. The first phase was when I was a seven or eight. My dad was in the Navy and bridge was a popular form of cheap entertainment among the married service members. I can clearly remember the discussions in the kitchen about bad trump splits, not taking the finesse and how you needed 25 points for game, but you needed 28 if the game was in a minor. Bridge was so popular in the late 50's that there was even a TV series called Goren on Bridge that I watched with my parents.

The second bridge phase was after I graduated from college and married Liz. Then we often played bridge on a Friday night with my mother, uncles and aunts. It was a nice evening, and we had free baby-sitting. Generally, we played standard kitchen table bridge with no conventions other than **staymen** and standard blackwood. Bidding was pretty random and counting cards was discussed but viewed as being a bit of a showoff.

My uncle and I did take our game on the road one day and played an afternoon session at the local Y. I think our brand of kitchen table bridge baffled some of the regulars and I recall that we came in second and won a half a master point. Soon after that Liz and I had more children, I got a job with IBM and we started moving around the world, so bridge was forgotten for quite a long time.

The third phase of bridge came when Liz's friends decided to get ready for retirement and took a course in bridge. Not long after that we started having evenings of couple's bridge which reminded me a lot of the games that my parents played all those decades ago. Lots of talking, a little drinking and a bit of bridge. After a year or so of these games I started to crave a bit more structure to the game, and remembered that there was a game called duplicate that was played outside the house. After searching the web, I found Raleigh Bridge Club, and was told that they had games a couple of times a week that were open to the public. It was daunting walking into the game the first time, but we found a comfortable game in the 499'ers, and found that we enjoyed going over there a couple of times a month. During the first few years we sometimes won as many as 10 points in a year!

After retirement, we started to travel with bridge and took advantage of the travel perks. We have gone as far as Utah and Alaska to play bridge, to get

discounts on hotels and see an area that we wanted to see. Eventually we both got close to being life masters, then COVID hit. Online bridge helped us get more points, but getting gold was virtually impossible until the regionals again opened up.

I just recently got my life master at the regional in Columbia, and Liz is a just a few points away. Hopefully the game can rebound and get back drawing big crowds because it is a fun way to get together with people, compete and have a good time. See you at the table.

## **Mentoring Program News**

♠ **Come Play with UJs in November!** ♣

♥ as a Mentee or Mentor ♦



**October was a fun-filled month** for the Unit 191 Mentoring Program with **Tricks** (3,809 by my count) and **Treats** (pizza and sweet snacks) galore. It started with an **in-person afternoon game and party** on **Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>**. The game was preceded by an excellent lesson by Marc Goldberg on "**Trump Control: when to pull or when not to pull trump.**" See Handout [HERE](#). The **online evening game** on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** had myriad interesting and challenging hands – at least for some of us. **Hearty congratulations** to those on the **leaderboards** below.

Please join us for an **in-person mentee-mentor game** at **12:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**, 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 given by Ian Cloudsdale."

**Let us know at <[brightleaf.mentee@gmail.com](mailto:brightleaf.mentee@gmail.com)>**

**if you plan to play or if you need a mentor.**

**We hope to see you there!**

And on **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. for an **online mentee-mentor game** hosted by **Triangle Bridge on BBO (VACB252858)**.

Our **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard** from the **Tuesday afternoon game on October 4<sup>th</sup>**:

Anna Stachon & Ian Cloudsdale, 1<sup>st</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> NS with 60.5%

Dwight Smith & Donna Walther, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> EW with 57.0%

Barbara Bute & Ed Fuller, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> NS with 53.5%

Mike Sauter & Kathy Newman, 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> NS with 50.5%

Maggie Smith & Sonja Smith, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> overall with 49.0%

Barbara Jerchower & Marie Eikinas, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> overall with 49.0%

Our hearty congratulations to the **leaderboard** from the **Wednesday evening game on October 19<sup>th</sup>**:

Larry Stanczyk & Joyce Jenzano, 1<sup>st</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> NS with an awesome 65.99%

Jo Anne Rosenfeld & Michael Lavine, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> EW with 60.88%

Mike Sauter & Kathy Newman, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> EW with 56.80%

Emily Albertson & Becky Fuchs, 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> NS with 55.44%

Anna Stachon & Ian Cloudsdale, 5<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> NS with 54.42%

Gerri Stanczyk & Gary Zadjeka, 6<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> ES with 52.38%

We gave back to the local community: **\$3** of each player's online game fee, or **\$96**, will be donated to a local charity.

Play every card well,

Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, and Maggie Lindquist

Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

Donna Walther (Board Liaison)

### **Two Play Problems Arise**

	<u>North</u> S Qxxx H A D Kxxxx C AKx	
<u>West</u> S T8x H Qxxxxx D x C QJ9		<u>East</u> S KJx H KJTxx D Jx C Txx
	<u>South</u> S A9x H x D AQTxx C xxxx	

With both sides Vulnerable, North opens 1 Diamond. East chips in 1 Heart, and South bids 2 Hearts, limit raise or better in Diamonds. West loves his singleton Diamond and 6!!!! trumps (if only my partner would hold this many trumps more often!) and raises the ante to 4 Hearts.

North has plenty to accept a game try and closes the auction with 5 Diamonds. East leads the Heart Jack, and North wins the singleton Ace. What should North plan to do to make this contract?

Before you ever play a card on any hand, you should always make assumptions about the opponent's cards based on the bidding. These assumptions are not always correct, but they at least give you a plan of action in playing the hand. On this particular hand, I would assume that the 1 Heart over caller had the Spade K since there was not a lot else that he could have to justify a vulnerable bid.

Declarer wins the Heart J opening lead and pulls two rounds of trumps. If Clubs are 3-3 and Declarer can arrange for LHO to win the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, then this opponent will have to break Spades which will guarantee the loss of no more than 1 Spade, or give him a ruff and a sluff which achieves the same goal.

Rats, AK and a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Clubs leaves RHO on play. A small Spade comes back and going on your assumption that LHO has the Spade K, you withhold your Q. LHO plays the J of Spades.

Well, what do you do after you win the Ace of Spades? You go SET. Let's back up just one trick. How about if you let LHO win the Jack of Spades? What can he do? If he leads another Spade, you duck it to your Q. If he leads anything else, you get a Ruff and a Sluff and dispose of your Spade loser that way. Game makes!!!!

I am writing this article because every declarer, except one, went set in 5 Diamonds. I scored slightly above average because one pair played in part score making four only, and one heroic pair actually bid and made the cold game. Bridge is very hard sometimes.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> hand is an old favorite play that you don't see very often, but you get a great result if your plan works at the table.

Let's look at 1 suit only:

You hold: AK9xx in the closed hand, and your partner holds Jxxxx in the dummy. All lazy declarers play a small card from dummy and miss the chance to possibly pick up QTx on side. Say What???? You always intend to play the A and the K of the suit, and if it is distributed 2-1, then it will run. How about if your RHO happens to hold QTx? Will he duck the J? Experts will; average players, I don't know. You will never find out unless you give them the chance to cover. What if LHO held QTx?

You will just lose the 1 trick that you always had to lose. What if RHO plays small on the J? You are going to play the AK anyway and run the suit if they are distributed 2-1.

When I used to teach, I always told my classes to follow a simple rule. If you want RHO to cover, lead the highest card that you can afford out of the dummy. If you want to try to duck a trick to LHO, lead the smallest card that is sensible from dummy. Plays like this come up very seldom and work only part of the time. To get any bang for your buck, you have to make the play every time you see it.

Randy Joyce