

## BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – April 2023



### **President's Corner:**

The unit ushered March in with the energy it takes to put on a sectional tournament, a bit like the March wind. Our Spring Sectional hosted 161.5 tables which is 55 tables more than the spring of 2022! We are encouraged in this rise in attendance and are grateful to all who contributed to the success of the tournament. (See recap below from Deanna).

Our Saturday limited (0-750) game has had steady attendance since implemented the last weekend in February. The unit is excited that this game is a success and continuing to grow. Thank you to Deanna Larus for spearheading this initiative and our guaranteed partner volunteers. As a reminder, there is also a limited (0-500) game each Friday morning at the Triangle Bridge Academy. Opportunities for more limited games are being explored at this time, so stay tuned for upcoming details.

The unit is planning an Awards Potluck Lunch and Game on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please put this date on your calendar! We will honor Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney Award recipients and announce our Hall of Fame Award winner. The unit will also have its annual membership meeting during this event. Game entry fees will be only \$6/player! Come play!

We are hoping to provide more time for socializing after games. Some of you may already have gotten together after games for coffee, etc. I am planning to put a box for suggestions on the table underneath the bulletin board. Let us know your thoughts.

Take your tricks and have fun,

Ann Fisher  
Unit 191 President

*"Oui, Armand."  
Reine-Marie smiled. "Six no trumps with that hand? What were you thinking?"  
Armand rose and bowed slightly. "My fault entirely."  
From Louise Penny's mystery, A Rule Against Murder*

# TOURNAMENT RECAP!

A big THANK YOU!!!! to all Unit 191 members who supported, volunteered and/or played in our recent sectional tournament. It was a big success, and the proceeds will help the Unit to provide special events for its members in the coming months! Special thanks are due to Ann Fisher, Maggie Lindquist, Chris Moll, Ira Mueller, Karen Popovich, Eric Hamilton, Gail King, Diane Saulsberry, Mary Newman and others for all of their work behind the scenes to make it run smoothly. Many other people gave donations of delicious goodies to share and enjoy! Until next time in early July...

One other point - In the days after the tournament, it was discovered that one of the 0-749 events (Friday 2:30 pairs game) was scored incorrectly and while it took a while (due to the ongoing national tournament), the results were finally corrected last week and are available in your myacbl portal.

## Game Schedule

### Triangle Bridge Academy

#### April schedule of events:

##### Open face to face games:

Monday – Friday @ 12:30pm

Saturday @ 9:45am

##### Open online BBO games:

Monday, Wednesday @ 7:00pm

##### 750 Limited face to face game

Saturday @ 9:45am / guaranteed partner

To help with planning, please remember to RSVP for by email.

[Unit191brightleaf@gmail.com](mailto:Unit191brightleaf@gmail.com)

##### Play and review face to face (under 500 mps)

Barometer game,

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

##### Online learn and play

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

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

Face to face: April 4, 12:30pm (lesson at 11:45)

Online BBO: April 12, 7:00pm (1 week earlier)

### **Upcoming District 7 Regionals and nearby Sectionals (click for flyer):**

April 17-23, [Gatlinburg Regional](#)

May 5-7, [Charleston Sectional](#)

May 11-13, [Greensboro Sectional](#)

May 11-13, [Highlands Sectional](#)

May 18-21, [Atlanta NLM Regional and open Sectional](#)

### **Member Spotlight – Russell Schoudt**



Russell Schoudt was raised in Alexandria Virginia and started playing bridge was when he was just 10 years old. His parents were social bridge players, who taught him how to play in the evenings. He was interested in the game and enjoyed learning, but since he was an only-child there weren't many opportunities for actual games until he got to high school and found friends who liked to play.

Russell went to Duke in 1964 and found other people who enjoyed playing social bridge. They played late in the evenings with the losers of the first rubber buying the snacks. He was a Civil Engineering major and graduated in 1968 at the height of the Vietnam war. He joined the Air Force and flew over 200 combat missions as a forward air controller.

The first time he played duplicate bridge was after returning to the states in 1973. He was stationed at Fort Walton Beach Florida where he occasionally played in the evenings with other officers and their wives. Friends in this group introduced him to duplicate. He played a dozen or so times while living there but never joined the ACBL. It probably didn't matter because he won less than a point, then got out of the service and moved. The highlight of this period was when he won a half point during a club event. He was playing with an 'older woman' --- who was almost 40--, and after they won she shocked him by standing up and giving him a big hug. Apparently, the half point put her over the top... and she made life master.

After getting out of the Air Force Russell moved to Texas, where he stayed from 1974 till 2007. During this time, he married his wife Tina --- in Paris Illinois--, started raising 11 cats and had no time for playing bridge. He still had an interest in the game but could only express it by reading the bridge

column in the local paper. He was too busy working as a project manager for multiple Engineering and Construction companies doing design/build work for Oil refineries, Chemical and Natural Gas plants. Most of the time he was in Texas, but he also visited job sites in Iran, Australia, Mexico and Venezuela.

Russell retired in 2005; he and his wife Tina moved to Durham in 2007. His wife volunteered at Duke Gardens where she was friendly with a woman whose husband was interested in bridge. The two women had a common interest, they wanted their husbands out of the house, and so Russell was introduced to Mark Webbink. They have been playing bridge a few times a week ever since.

The highlight of Russell's playing career was when he and Mark won a 0-300 game in 2016 and came in 4<sup>th</sup> nationally in the Common Game.

Russell has 445 master points, but not many are gold. He enjoys the face-to-face games more than online but he doesn't travel much so he doesn't expect to make Life Master. He currently plays at the bridge academy three times a week, enjoys the interaction with the other players and actually *appreciates* comments from the more experienced players. He, like most of us, is hopeful that the attendance numbers pick up and that the local game rebounds and we can get back to bigger crowds.

See you at tables and enjoy the game

### **Mentoring Program News**

#### **March Mentee-Mentor Game Summary**

The **in-person mentee-mentor afternoon game** on **Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>** was a Club Charity Championship game with five tables. The game was preceded by an excellent lesson on the "Cue Bids – Communicating in Competition" by Marc Goldberg. See his handout [HERE](#).

The **online evening game** on **Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** was a Club Rating Point game with eight tables. We gave back to the local community **\$3** of each player's online game fee; **\$96** is to be donated to a local charity.

Our **hearty congratulations** to the **leaderboard** for the **March 7<sup>th</sup> game**:

Bill Marzluff & Deborah Hoveland, 1st overall & 1st NS with 62.00%

Alison Bowes & Katie Wilson, 2nd overall & 1st EW with 61.50%

Lisa Vulinec & John A. Schachte, 3rd overall & 2nd NS with 57.50%

Barbara Bute & Ed Fuller, 4th overall & 2nd EW with 52.50%

Cathy Simon & Leslie Blair, 5th overall & 3rd EW with 50.50%  
Barbara Hulka & Beverly Craig, 6th overall & 3rd NS with 45.00%

Our hearty congratulations to the **leaderboard** from the **March 22<sup>nd</sup> game**:

Barbara Bute & Ed Fuller, 1<sup>st</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> EW with a whopping 67.46%

Becky Fuchs & Brian Fuchs, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> NS with 59.18%

Jill Koury & Janet Dence, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall & 2<sup>nd</sup> NS with 57.14%

Alison Bowes & Bill McCartney, 4<sup>th</sup> overall & 2<sup>nd</sup> EW with 54.88%

Vanessa Brown & Maggie Lindquist, 5<sup>th</sup> overall & 3<sup>rd</sup> EW with 54.65%

Stephan Karlsson & Reece Schuler, 6<sup>th</sup> overall & 3<sup>rd</sup> NS with 53.17%

Play every card well,

Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Maggie Lindquist, and Barbara Bute (Board Liaison)

Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

♠ **Come Play with U's in April, no fooling!** ♣

♥ **as a Mentee or Mentor** ♦



**Please join us in April** for the **in-person mentee-mentor afternoon game** at **12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**, at **Triangle Bridge Academy**, 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd., Suite 102, Durham, NC. The game will be preceded by a **30-minute lesson at 11:45 a.m. – note earlier start time –** given by Marc Goldberg on *"How to Bid and Respond to Reverses"* – a useful asset for your bidding toolbox.

**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!**

**Come play with us on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – note the ONE-WEEK EARLIER GAME DAY to avoid conflicting with Gatlinburg Regional: April 17-23, 2023.** The **online evening mentee-mentor game** is at **7:00 p.m.** hosted by Triangle Bridge on BBO (VACB252858).

Play every card well,

Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Maggie Lindquist, and Barbara Bute (Board Liaison)

Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee