

THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

APRIL, 2025

From your President:

March flew by in a blur! I was humbled by the quality of bridge players in Memphis. Loved the competition but was it difficult. Congratulations to **Marc Goldberg** and **Ian Cloudsdale** for representing District 7 and Unit 191 in the North American Pairs Competition. Next up for them is the GNT District competition.

Grand National Teams is a knockout event competition that is held at the Summer Nationals. Units may hold qualifying team games during the fall and winter then the District holds a final competition to see who represents our District at the national competition. Hence the email that was sent last week about the upcoming District 7 Finals competition. Good luck to them and any other local players who are vying to win the prize money and a trip to Philadelphia in July.

A few weeks ago, you received a notice about the upcoming Unit 191 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 16 at 7:30. This meeting will be held on Zoom so that all members may attend. Check your email for a zoom invitation on April 15th. After a review of the state of the Unit, we will hold a vote on an amendment to the Bylaws. The Board has voted to reduce the number of Board members to 9 members (currently 12) in response to the reduction in size of our Unit membership. This trend is happening nationally as well. If you have questions, please reach out to any board member for more information.

Look for an invitation soon for the 2024 Awards Celebration scheduled for May 16th at TBA. At that event we will honor our Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners! We hope to have a full crowd at TBA. Also, make sure that your calendars are marked for our Summer Sectional on July 10-13! More on both events coming soon.

Finally, thank you to **Marc Goldberg** to reminding us about the wealth of information that can be found on the Unit website in last month's Alert. We appreciate this tremendous resource and his efforts to keep us informed. You can always check this website to learn about upcoming events at all levels. www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf

I hope to see you all at a bridge table soon!

Deanna Larus



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT.....MARY ANN COTTER

I was an elementary school teacher particularly 4-6th grade the last ten years of my career, and I served as a school-based technology specialist—which is really a jack of all technical jobs and masters of none. I taught teacher workshops, did computer troubleshooting, planned budgets and designed web pages.

I grew up in White Plains, NY in Westchester County. As an adult I have lived in Connecticut, Virginia, and North Carolina, having been in Southport, NC for 21 years and in Durham for the past year and a half.

We moved to North Carolina in 2002 when my husband and I retired early. After being in Southport all those years, I had a list of requirements for our next community and North Durham fit the bill. One of those requirements was to have a good bridge center within a half hour ride. I was tired of driving 50 minutes 2-4 times a week to play bridge. And I had met many people in our club at tournaments over the years.

I started playing bridge in 2008. I had never played any cards except canasta as a teenager. A dear friend of mine nattered at me to take lessons which I did and then played social bridge for a short while before she dragged me to a sectional tournament in none other than Durham! I used to play 4-5 times a week but have backed off so I can spend more time pursuing other interests and being with my husband.



I do not have a big family anymore. As a child, there were numerous members of our Italian extended family always around because my grandmother lived with us. Being an only child, I have no siblings. I have my husband, Bob, to whom I have been married 55 years, my daughter, Holly and her husband, Dave, who live at Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia with their three dogs; and my son, Michael, and his wife Jamie, who live in the Los Angeles area with my grandson, Ansel, of whom we are very proud.

I have been learning Italian on my own with the help of an app. I am interested in many things but all kinds of felines and birds are at the top of the list. College basketball is a seasonal favorite.

Besides bridge, I enjoy reading mysteries, quilting, gardening, cooking and travel. We have been on numerous cruises and tours, my favorite place being Italy to which we will return in June.

Unit 191 Award Winners for 2024

The Ace of Clubs points are those won at the club level.

The Ace of Virtual Clubs points are those won on BBO.

The Mini-McKenney points are those won in all ACBL-sanctioned events.

MASTER POINTS	ACE OF CLUBS		ACE OF VIRTUAL CLUBS		MINI - McKENNEY	
	0 - 5	Douglas Bordewieck Neil Evans Margaret Burchinal	32.91 18.80 16.19	Rita Dunkin	0.32	Douglas Bordewieck Neil Evans Margaret Burchinal
5 - 20	Peter Hendee Anne Hershey Alison Bowes	24.14 17.67 17.51	Thomas Henkel Sandi Fitts Janice Weber	2.60 2.28 1.40	Ann Hershey Alison Bowes Peter Hendee	43.15 31.14 27.50
20 - 50	Joan Roberts Stanley Wilson Robert Vick	60.04 34.37 24.27	Paul Cornwell Catherine Leonardi James Starling	28.84 12.18 1.00	Joann Roberts Paul Cornwell Stanley Wilson	86.09 54.02 49.27
50 - 100	Laura Ross Jeanne Gismondi Karl Krummel	26.29 18.11 17.95	Diane Cutshaw Henry Luftman Anne Anderson	18.66 5.04 2.23	Laura Ross Vanessa Brown Diane Cutshaw	27.70 24.62 21.06
100 - 200	Michele Smith Ted Michie Bayard Atwood	60.98 29.14 27.79	Alana Ennis Teddy Lovejoy Holly Hafer	71.09 10.93 4.62	Michele Smith Alana Ennis Dan Snedecor	80.91 78.50 34.45
200 - 300	Joanna Karwowska Margaret Smith Jo Anne Rosenfeld	69.38 42.95 37.39	Lee Nackman Anna Stachon Richard Schneider	36.75 26.03 23.44	Joanna Karwowska Anna Stachon Margaret Smith	102.08 70.17 57.76
300 - 500	Morris Weinberger Jeff Kimmel Larry Stanczyk	65.47 42.07 38.32	Regina Bann Kenneth Bann Marsha Hereford	62.10 57.00 49.82	Regina Bann Kenneth Bann Morris Weinberger	105.74 100.44 90.07
500 - 1,000	Michael Lavine Cathy Simon Russell Schoudt	130.5 75.29 67.25	Karen Popovich Dixie Hapgood Nancy Crow	72.24 61.74 59.48	Michael Lavine Karen Popovich Cathy Simon	225.18 196.47 104.47
1,000 - 1,500	Jacqueline Marks Marry Ellen Pasquale Katie Wilson	41.84 38.73 33.36	Mariee Walton Linda Owen Larry Kupper	99.18 67.56 52.11	Mariee Walton Leslie Blair Linda Owen	261.75 178.59 114.65
1,500 - 2,500	Marc Goldberg Ian Cloudsdale Mark Kelleher	174.03 112.54 89.45	Barry Buehler Jonathan Nadel Rosalind Lin	79.16 63.94 31.10	Marc Goldberg Ian Cloudsdale Joyce Jenzano	371.20 231.86 127.50
2,500 - 3,500	Victor Riva Melanie Riva Henry Meguid	129.89 119.08 84.68	Hugon Karwowski Peter Adler Ed Fuller	92.14 65.95 13.91	Martin Causley Deanna Larus Debbie Hoveland	372.80 203.92 146.69
3,500 - 5,000	Suzie Goldberg Jim Cunningham Barbara Martin	208.99 112.73 85.68	Suzie Goldberg Susan Scholer Karen Bate	30.55 20.83 18.20	Suzie Goldberg Barbara Martin Bill Young	427.51 181.86 176.18
5,000 - 7,500	Tom Roberg Sonja Smith Mort Stromberg	135.54 119.05 44.20	Tom Roberg Sonja Smith	153.16 3.31	Tom Roberg Sonja Smith Mort Stromberg	300.29 252.07 45.25
7,500 - 10,000	Hsun-Kang Su Elaine Landow	70.50 3.84	Elaine Landow	19.65	B Wayne Stuart III Hsun-Kang Su Elaine Landow	134.21 101.23 23.49
10,000+	Kay Joyce Randy Joyce Chris Moll	83.64 55.83 17.01	Kay Joyce Chris Moll Randy Joyce	232.76 204.98 192.68	Kay Joyce Randy Joyce Chris Moll	792.03 738.50 597.42



to Unit 191 members who
made the Barry Crane top
500 list of ACBL!!!

Kay Joyce—#82—792.03

Randy Joyce—#101—738.50

Chris Moll—#155—597.42

Suzie Goldberg—#413—427.51

WELL DONE!!!!

**HAPPY
SPRING!!**

MISCELLANEOUS.....

1. Please take the time to thank our directors—they make it possible for all of us to enjoy this wonderful game ——**Henry Meguid—John Torrey—Debbie Hoveland—Deanna Larus—Jay Bates—Stanley Wilson**—(apologies to the Roxboro club director—not sure of the name)
2. Take another minute to thank the Unit 191 Board of Directors—**Deanna Larus, Ian Cloudsdale, Mary Newman, Ira Mueller, Phylliss Woody, Michael Lavine. Ann Fisher, Bill Ingram, Ray Boylan, Joanna Karwowska, Eric Hamilton, and Morris Weinberger**. They give of their time and work hard to make sure the unit runs smoothly.
3. Mark your calendars and plan to support local sectional and regional tournaments—check the website for places and dates. Especially, put July 10-13 on the calendar and plan to play in our Unit 191 tournament.
4. Take time to read the website!!! There is valuable information that will interest all members—and thank you to **Marc Goldberg**, who does a wonderful job of keeping the website current
5. If you have ideas or suggestions for the Alert, please contact me—Barbara Martin (barbaramartinduke@gmail.com) . A personal thank you to those who contribute articles—makes my job easier.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE and PROTOCOL

TABLE MANNERS

1. Cards should not be taken out of the board before all players are at the table.
2. Before you look at your cards count your hand and ensure you have exactly thirteen cards.
3. **DO** greet your opponents at the table and treat them with respect and courtesy.
4. **DO NOT** indulge in post-mortems with your partner directly after a hand is finished. (Save it for after the game.) Not only could a post-mortem undermine partnership confidence, but it may communicate information to players who have not played the hand at other tables.
5. **DO NOT** criticize partner. (Keep it to yourself until after the game. You will have cooled down by then.) And you may also have figured out that you share some of the blame.
6. **DO** compliment your opponents for fine bidding or play. (Especially beginners)
7. **DO NOT** gloat! (It is ugly) Be modest.
8. **DO** say ‘Director Please’ in a pleasant tone. Keep your hand up so that the Director can quickly determine who called.
9. **DO** support your partner at all times. She/he is the only player in the room who is on your side!

THE AUCTION

1. Bidding boxes are designed to reduce the possibility of information being communicated between partners by voice intonation or other mannerisms such as eye contact. When using a bidding box, decide what your bid is going to be before reaching for or touching cards in the bidding box. An extreme example of this impropriety is when you touch a 2H card and then pull out a pass card.
2. **DO NOT** ask for information from your opponents unless it is your turn to bid.
3. **DO NOT** ask for information from your opponents unless you are intending to bid. Asking for explanation without bidding could in certain circumstances be construed as passing unauthorized information to one’s partner. If one doesn’t intend to bid, questions of the opponents, should be made after the auction is concluded.

PLAY OF THE HAND

1. **DO** say “Thank you” to your partner when he/she puts the Dummy on the table. (Even though you are thinking to yourself ‘where the heck is the hand my partner was bidding?)
2. **DO**, when you are on opening lead, lead first and then write the contract on your score sheet. When you are on opening lead, detach a card from

your hand and lay it face down on the table. This prevents irregularities....such as leading when it is not your turn to do so and allows questions about the auction and any alerts to be answered. All players, except dummy, may now request a review of the auction and an explanation of any alerted calls. You, as the opening leader, may ask for any review of the bidding before you make your first lead. Other players may also ask for a review of the auction at their first opportunity to play.

3. DO NOT snap your cards down on the table.
4. DO NOT detach a card from the hand before it is your turn to play. Do not pull up a card, push it back into your hand, and then pull up another card. Nor should you detach a card and then replace it to play another card. Also do not detach your card before it is your turn to play, and never rearrange your hand when you are out of a suit. All of these maneuvers provide additional valuable information to the declarer.
5. You have the right to inspect the cards that have been played on the current trick as long as YOUR card remains face up. Once all cards have been turned over (face down) no one can ask to see the cards that were played.
6. At the end of a hand ensure that you do not mix up your cards until the result is agreed with the opponents.
7. Do not look at your opponent's or partner's cards after the hand has been played without their permission.

(Reprinted with permission from Bridge Bums)

Membership Report

Unit 191 membership report includes processed transactions from March 1, 2025 through April 1, 2025.

Unit 191 has 472 members.

We welcome new ACBL members:

David Stemler

Jeanie Thomas

We also send a warm welcome to:

Valerie Winebrenner (transferred from Unit 128—Florida)

Congratulations to the following members who have attained a new level:

Junior Master

Frank Gohs

Regional Master

Paul Norton

Bronze Live Master

Cathy Simon

BIDDING EXPLANATION FROM BBO

Diane Bastian told a story about online bridge play last week and I thought it was useful information to share with our unit members. This bidding sequence happened when she was playing online and is an email her partner sent to the BBO and the response she received in reply.

“I am not writing to have any score changed, but just wanted it to be on record. Today in the Speedball game, our RHO opponent opened 3 clubs with:

S—962

H—63

D—962

C—AKQ53

It's of course our hand and I double for takeout.

S -AK8

H -AJ108

D—Q843

C -102

His partner West passes.

My partner holds:

S -QJ4

H -Q42

D -K107

C -J874

She bids 3 Spades—All pass.

We are set of course—bad contract, and I know this will be considered a psych—which is allowed, etc. But I find that players are bidding more and more outrageously with no consequences. BBO has a huge audience and I personally love it and play a

lot. But for we players who pretty much follow basic bridge rules— this is sometimes hard to swallow.

Nothing to be done - our bidding error—but just had to get it off my chest. Thanks for ‘listening’ and I will continue to play and love every minute.”

Reply from BBO:

“I am not sure that the bid would be considered psych since the player had 5 clubs and was between 5 and 11 points and vulnerable. Using the rule of 2/3/4 the player has an 8 losing trick count hand. When subtracted from 13, that results in 5. For non-vul vs. vul, 4 tricks are added making it 9. So the rule says to open it at the 3 level. <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/rule-of-234>”

Everyone is bidding more aggressively these days. To reduce this aggressive bidding, players are going to need to penalty double more often.

I played today and my LHO made a weak overcall after my partner and I had both bid. It came around to me and I doubled and my partner passed. We ended up with 800 points and probably weren't even going to bid a game.

It is sometimes hard to make a penalty double because it is assumed to be for takeout. But it is the best way to score in some sequences. Either that or just pass and take a small positive score, The normal thinking is to just try to go positive when there is a preempt on the table.

Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee program

Unit 191 held a Tier II (higher level) Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, March 11th. There were five tables. Congratulations to **Stanley Wilson and Bill Ingram** who finished first. The game was preceded by a lesson from **Michael Lavine** on second hand play. The contents were taken from Richard Pavlicek's material on second hand play, which you can find at <http://rpbridge.net/rpil.htm>.

The Unit held a Tier I game on Tuesday, March 25. There were 9 tables. The winners were **Felicity Klintworth and Diana Spock**, North-South, and **Mike Sauter and Bev Craig**, East-West. The game was preceded by a lesson from **Henry Meguid** on opening bids. **Bill Ingram** wrote comments on several hands from the game.

As always, you can find handouts from the lessons and discussions from the mentors by going to the **Unit 191** web site, following the link to **Mentoring Program** webpage, and looking at the **Learning** section there.

Tier I games are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM, preceded by a half-hour lesson from Henry Meguid starting at 12:15. Tier II games are held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM, preceded by a half-hour lesson beginning at 9:15. The fee is \$12 per person, except that the Unit will subsidize \$5 of the fee for each mentor who is playing with a Unit mentee. That makes the fee \$19 per pair if the mentee is from the Unit. We encourage mentees to pay their mentors' fees.

If you or your partner are unable to attend a particular M/M game, please let us know in advance so we can find someone to take your place — either a mentor or mentee who would not otherwise have a partner. It's also a courtesy to your regular MM partner; no one likes to be stood up when they're expecting to play. Email Michael Lavine, mlavine@umass.edu, or any other member of the mentoring committee.

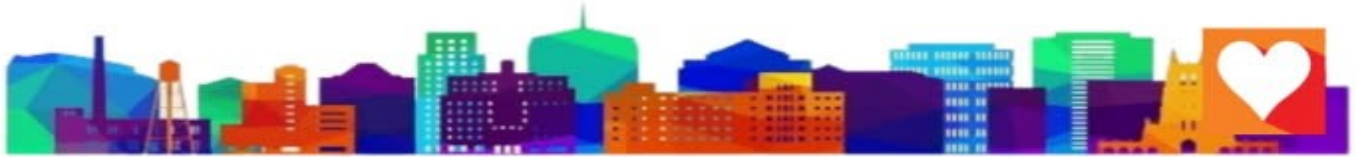
Finally, we encourage MM pairs to play in the Eight is Enough team game on the third Saturday of each month running from 10 AM to approximately 1 PM. If you and your MM partner would like to play, you can either form a team on your own or email Michael Lavine, mlavine@umass.edu,

APRIL BRIDGE SCHEDULE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05
		1:00– 4:00 PM Nuplicate Barometer	12:30 PM Silver Linings Open Game	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	TBA Closed
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
12:30 PM Unit Champi- onship	Mentor- Mentee T2 9:15 AM Les- son 10:00 AM Game	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	TBA Closed	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	1:00– 4:00 PM Nuplicate Barometer	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship 7:30 PM UNIT 191 ANNUAL MEETING**	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	10:00 AM 8 Is Enough Swiss Teams	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	Mentor- Mentee T1 12:15 Les- son 1:00 PM	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	12:30 ABA pairs (private)	12:30 PM Unit Champi- onship	TBA Closed	
27	28	29	30			
12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship	1:00– 4:00 PM Nuplicate Barometer	12:30 PM Charity Club Champion- ship				

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Zoom link for the Annual Meeting will be sent to your email address



Brightleaf Unit 191's
Summer Bridge Sectional
July 10 - 13, 2025

new location

Governor's Village,
40120 Moring (upstairs), Chapel Hill, NC 27517,

THURSDAY, July 10
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, July 11
10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER
10 AM 199'er PAIRS

SATURDAY, July 12
10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
10 AM 199'er PAIRS

SUNDAY, July 13
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS
PLAYTHROUGH WITH LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
10 AM 199'er SINGLE SESSION SWISS TEAM GAME

*FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
2:30 PM GAMES ARE
REGIONALLY RATED FOR
MORE SILVER POINTS!

**Stratification & bracketing for all
games by average pair/team
masterpoints.**

Open Stratification:
0-1500, 1500 - 3500, 3500+

199'er Stratification:
0-50, 50-100, 100-150
150-199

749'er Stratification:
0-300, 300-500, 500-750

ENTRY FEE: \$14/PLAYER/GAME
0-5 MP play for free!

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