

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

DECEMBER 2025

From the desk of the Unit President:

Wow! What a successful sectional tournament we had! Since 2020, our Unit organized sectional tournaments that ranged in total table count from 132-144 tables. That was what we expected and prepared for. Thursday night started us off with the expected turnout – 14 teams. But Friday and Saturday mornings we were shocked! We had not had more than 30 tables in any single session since before the pandemic. Friday morning - 38 tables! We managed and took a breath at noon. Friday is generally our high attendance day. Then Saturday morning came and wham!!!! 41 tables!

Overall, the tournament hosted 190 tables! Fifty more tables than we have seen since 2019! As **Marie Killoran** said “There was no way to anticipate or prepare for such a change.” Now for the best detail! For Friday and Saturday morning sessions, we had 20 and 19 tables in the limited section (0-750 masterpoints). But truthfully, we actually had 18-19 tables of players with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Those players are the future of the game! We were so happy to host that many novice players! Thank you all for coming!

It has been two weeks since, and all of the volunteers are still recovering. Many hours of work go into running such a tournament and The Board is so thankful for everyone who helped in some way. We are so grateful for all who attended a session and for all who volunteered. We were grateful for everyone’s patience as we found a way to accommodate that many extra players for the bigger sessions.

Going forward, the venue worked out pretty well. If we choose to rent that space again, we will expand to the second room and have an assistant director on hand so that we can spread people out and better accommodate everyone.

In December, the Board of Directors will be making decisions about our schedule for 2026. Stay tuned for an updated tournament schedule.

Happy Holidays!

Deanna Larus



BOARD 27 FROM A CLUB GAME

By Ian Cloudsdale

You end up in a 4H contract after West has shown a long spade suit. East eagerly tables the 8 of spades. What's your plan?

From the lead it is clear West has the spade K. You are in danger of losing 2 club tricks and a spade. Also you can see your spade winner being trumped as well. You must handle the trumps carefully. You can try to drop Q doubleton or finesse. With spade length in West, it is more likely East has

longer hearts. There are some scenarios where West may have a Q, so leading to the heart A seems best, leaving your options to finesse East or drop the Q.

You take the spade A and play a low heart to the Ace paying particular attention to the card West plays. West shows out! As the cards lie, East is guaranteed a heart trick. You must eliminate your spade loser. Play a low heart to the J and then play the K, leaving East with their Q winner. Run the diamonds, as long as the diamond J falls, you can pitch your spades on the 3rd and 4th diamond. It matters little whether East trumps the last diamond or not. You have a ruffing finesse on the spade K. Contract made losing the heart Q and 2 club tricks.. Well played.

Here is the whole hand, There is a case for West preempting to 3 spades depending on the auction, but that turned out poorly at the club and in the common game.

North	
♠	QT
♥	AT865
♦	A8
♣	JT74
South	
♠	AJ9
♥	KJ42
♦	KQT6
♣	82

North			
♠	QT		
♥	AT865		
♦	A8		
♣	JT85		
West		East	
♠	K765432	♠	8
♥	----	♥	Q973
♦	J97	♦	5432
♣	A93	♣	KQ65
South			
♠	AJ9		
♥	KJ42		
♦	KQT6		
♣	82		

Contract	Result	Score		Matchpoints	
		N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
4 ♥ S	+1	450	-450	7.00	0.00
3 ♠ x W	-2	300	-300	5.50	1.50
3 ♠ x W	-2	300	-300	5.50	1.50
2 ♥ S	+1	140	-140	4.00	3.00
3 ♠ W	-2	100	-100	3.00	4.00
4 ♥ N	-1	-50	50	1.50	5.50
4 ♥ N	-1	-50	50	1.50	5.50
4 ♥ N	-2	-100	100	0.00	7.00

In the common game, making 4 hearts was worth 81% of the matchpoints!!

N/S Result	# of Pairs	PCT	MP %
-50	142	27	33
420	122	23	81
-100	82	16	11





Clockwise - **Melanie Riva** , who collected over \$300 at club games to defray expenses at the tournament—**Ian Cloudsdale** and **Ray McEntee**—workers and designated partner—**Deanna Larus** , Tournament Chair and a guest from Wilmington—the limited game players in the overflow area.



The Duke bridge playing team! Above—these players were ready for their pizza after the Sat. game—and preparing to return for the Swiss game on Sun.
Bottom—13 students skipped school to play in the Friday game.



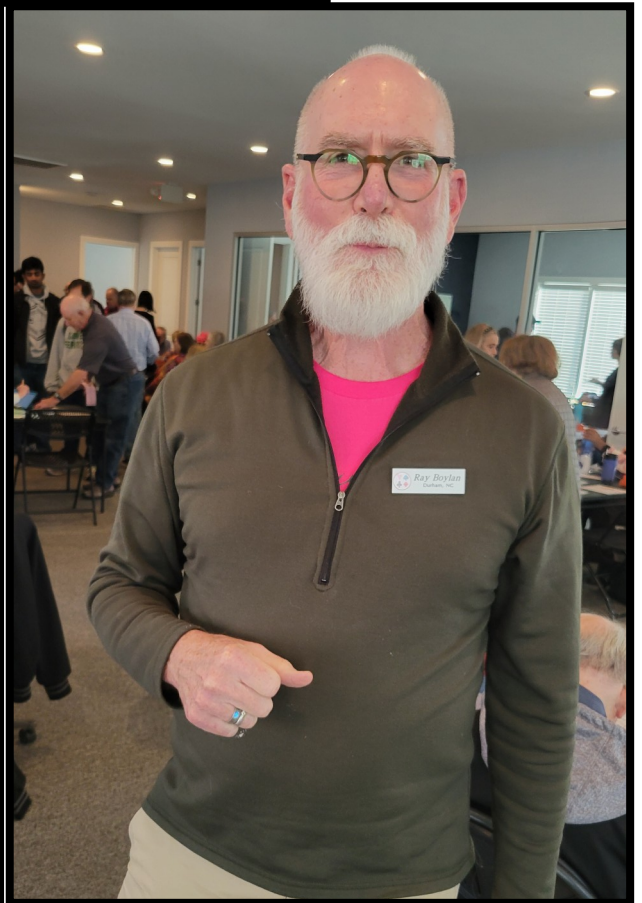


The room was packed for the Saturday morning game—**Ann Fisher**, Partnership chair m enjoying a coffee before the game—**Mary Newman** (ready for a nap) and **Ira Mueller**—**OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY CHAIRWOMEN!** - **Henry Meguid** and **Sonja Smith**—completing their card on Sat.—**Gerry Stanczyk** and **Regina Bann**, all smiles before the Saturday game.





**A VERY
PACKED
HOUSE FOR
THE MORN-
ING GAMES
AT THE TOUR-
NAMENT!**



Marie Kiloran—who did an outstanding job directing and organizing the games—and she is still smiling! **Ray Boylen**—preparing himself for the game.

It took more than a village to plan the successful tournament held last weekend. Thank you—thank you to the following:

- **Deanna Larus**—Tournament chair
- **Marie Kiloran**—Tournament director
- **Ian Cloudsdale**—Coordinator of tables and chairs
- **Ann Fisher**—Partnership chairperson
- **Mary Newman and Ira Mueller**—Hospitality chairpersons extraordinaire!
- Volunteers to be designated partner—**Ray McEntee, Hugon Karwowski, Eric Hamilton, Mary Jo Dunnebacke, Dwight Smith**—not sure of others
- **Melanie Riva**—who collected \$\$\$ at the games to defray expenses
- **Unit 191 board members**—who were all in attendance and doing whatever needed to be done
- Those who brought extra tables and chairs
- **Unit members** who donated wonderful food and baked goodies
- To all those who helped in any way
- AND...thanks to all those who showed up to play in the tournament. It was nice to see so many people in the limited games and so many new faces in the open.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Activity in the unit from November 1-30,
2025

463 members

We extend a warm welcome to these new members into our unit:

Ananya Agrawal

Divyansh Jain

Bob Tyson

And transfers into Unit 191 from New Jersey:

Dorothea Libman

Victor Libman

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

Junior Master

Lydia Eanes

Regional Master

Alana Ennis

NABC Master

Anna Stachon

Bronze Life Master

Morris Weinberger

Golf Life Master

Linda Whipple



Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191's bridge mentoring program continued in November. The program sponsors games in person, at Triangle Bridge Academy, and online, on BBO. The in-person games have two tiers. Tier I is for mentees with fewer than 250 masterpoints playing with mentors who have fewer than 500 masterpoints. Tier II is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints; mentors are unlimited.

Refreshments are provided by a crew of volunteers — **Ray Boylan, Ann Fisher, Martha Schulwitz, and Maggie Smith** — to whom we offer our appreciation. They are always looking for more volunteers. Please email one of them if you can help. Tier I plays on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson from **Henry Meguid** at 9:15.

The November game was on Tuesday, November 25 and had five tables. Congratulations to **Gerri Stanczyk** and **Ray McEntee** who had a big score of nearly 66%. Note: the December game will be on the 16th, the third Tuesday, to avoid conflict with the holiday that falls in the fourth week.

Tier II plays on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson at 9:15 given by a rotating set of advanced players. The November game was on Tuesday, November 11. **Ian Cloudsdale** gave the lesson, which was on the finer points of some common conventions such as Roman Key Card Blackwood and New Minor Forcing. The game had eight pairs with the scores bunched between 40% and 58%. Congratulations to **Dwight Smith and Mary Jo Dunnebacke** for winning the close contest.

The online game is new this year and is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints. The mentees play together in pairs at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. After the game, a panel of advanced players write comments on all the boards, which are then circulated to the mentees. Many thanks to the panel members for volunteering their time and expertise: **Glen Anderson, John Cobb, Mary Jo Dunnebacke, Renee Getz, Eric Hamilton, and Michael Lavine**. The November game was on the 19th and had five tables. Congratulations to two pairs who scored over 65%: **Anne Roush—Cynthia Hinshaw and Maggie Smith—Anna Stachon**.

If you would like to join any of these groups, please email **Michael Lavine**.

DECEMBER 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP) 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game 6:30 Social Bridge	2 1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	3 9:30 AM – 12 PM Newcomers Barometer 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	4 12 PM ABA Private Game	5 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	6 TBA Closed
8 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP) 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game 6:30 Social Bridge	9 9:15 AM Tier II MM Lesson 10 AM Tier II MM Game 1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	10 9:30 AM – 12 PM Newcomers Barometer 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	11 12 PM ABA Private Game	12 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	13 TBA Closed
15 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP) 12:30 PM Stardust Game 6 PM HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER AND SOCIAL BRIDGE	16 9:15 Tier I MM Lesson 10 AM Tier I MM Game 1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	17 9:30 AM – 12 PM Newcomers Barometer 12:30 PM Stardust Game 7 PM MM BBO Online Game	18 9 AM Limited Game (0-750 MPS) 12 PM ABA game Private	19 11:30 AM HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH and game (below) 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game https://www.bing.com/search?FORM=ARPE&C&PC=ARPL&P&TAG=30261&q=where%	20 10 AM 8 Is Enough Swiss Team Game
22 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP) 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	23 TBA Closed	24 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 TBA Closed	27 TBA Closed
28 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	29 TBA Closed	30 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	31 12 PM ABA game Private		