

THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

AUGUST 2026

From our Presidents.....

For the first time ever, Unit 191 and the Raleigh Bridge Club (RBC) co-hosted the summer sectional. Last week, you received an e-mail with a report from **Deanna Larus**, the tournament chair, describing its remarkable success. In that email, Deanna recognized the many Unit 191 and RBC members who volunteered and were the reason for that success. We want to thank Deanna for not only being the tournament chair but also coming up with the idea of co-hosting the tournament and working with RBC leaders to make it happen. Unit 191 players did extremely well. From Unit 191, members who finished in the top 15 masterpoint winners were **Wayne Stuart, Wayne Ohlrich, Suzie Goldberg, Marc Goldberg, Howard Su, Randy Joyce, Kay Joyce, Melanie Riva, Skip Riva, and Mary Vickers**) <https://live.acbl.org/masterpoint-winners/2607321>), We also want to recognize Unit 191 members who came in first in individual events:

Thursday Open Swiss

1st Flight C: **Lori Scanga, Bill Chappell, Bill Ingram, Jackie Marks**

Friday Regionally-Rated Open Pairs

1st Flight A: **Marc Goldberg, Suzie Goldberg**

1st Flight B: **Melanie Riva, Skip Riva**

1st Flight C: **Harry Luftman, Barry Deutsch**

Friday Open Pairs

1st Flight C: **Maryann Cotter, Kathy Coburn**

Friday 749er Pairs

1st Tier 7: **Gerri Stanczyk, Larry Stanczyk**

1st Tiers 5 and 3: **Bonnie Shafer, Fank Gohs**

Friday 499er Pairs

1st Tiers 7 and 5: **Anne Hershey, Peter Hendee**

Saturday Regionally-Rated Open Pairs

1st Flight A: **Wayne Stuart, Wayne Ohlrich** (Winners in AM and PM)

1st Flight B: **Jim Cunningham**

1st Flight C: **Reece Schuler, Liz Schuler**

Saturday Open Pairs

1st Flight C: **Tom Bordeaux, Karen Bordeaux**

Saturday 749er Pairs

1st Tier 5: **Anne Hershey, Peter Hendee**

Saturday 499er Pairs

1st Tier 5: **Martha Schulwitz, Chellie Joines**

Sunday Open Swiss

- 1st Flight A: **Randi Joyce, Kay Joyce, Steven Devico, Gayle Covey**

- 1st Flight B: **Marc Goldberg, Suzie Goldberg**

Sunday 749er Swiss

Randall Baker

TOURNAMENT WRAP-UP

I am thrilled to report that we had a wonderful summer sectional in Governor's Village this past weekend. Two hundred fifty-eight people came to play and we had a total of 205 tables overall despite an ongoing NABC tournament and typical summer vacation travel schedules. This turnout surpassed the post-pandemic attendance record (189 tables) set last fall. Interestingly, Unit 191 had 108 members play in the sectional. Unit 119 had 114 members play in the sectional. Furthermore, we had several pairs sessions that had: <499 events with more than 10 tables AND <749 events with more than 12 tables each. Lots of intermediate and novice players! That is wonderful news!

Due to a dedicated team of volunteers, we found a way to seat more than 40 bridge tables in a single session and keep cool in the hot July sun.

This tournament represented the first joint venture by Unit 191 and the Raleigh Bridge Center. The tournament team was a combination of volunteers from both groups and everyone worked seamlessly to provide a fun experience for all.

Thanks are due to our top notch hospitality crew led by **Mary Newman** and **Susan Overcash**— who kept the coffee flowing and fed us all throughout the event. **Suzie and Marc Goldberg** kept us cool with ice and coolers for food storage every day! Volunteers signed up to help and even more people just randomly stepped in to lend a hand at a moment's notice. So many people contributed to hospitality through food donations, cash donations, and manpower. You know who you are – we appre-

ciate your help and are so thankful. Everyone was well fed!

Ann Fisher and **Barbara Hudson** did a wonderful job matching players with partners in the weeks before the tournament and even on site so that everyone could play. Perhaps some of these partnerships will continue beyond this weekend as the players became friends. We are grateful for our guaranteed partner volunteers who were willing to fill in on a moment's notice.

Special thanks go to **Barbara Hudson** for making the boards for all pairs events and delivering them to the venue. She also served as an assistant director during a very busy Saturday. Thank you to **Bill Rysanek, Collins Williams, Bill Hardis, Bill Chappell, Marc and Suzie Goldberg**, and **Kathy McClendon**, for helping transport all the game equipment to the venue and doing the heavy lifting for setup and breakdown of the room. **Ray McEntee** came over simply to help on Sunday even though he didn't play in the Swiss. Overall about 25 people pitched in to move tables, chairs, and equipment. This allowed everyone to go home on Sunday before dark! It was wonderfully speedy.

Our next local sectional tournament will be hosted by the Raleigh Bridge Club on September 24-27th in Raleigh. Unit 191's next local tournament will be November 12-15th. We promise a bigger venue and better chairs for all! See you next time!

Deanna Larus, Tournament Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT—JUNE 2026

Current Membership Totals

453

**Paid
Members**

74

**Guest
Members**

New Member Growth

1

Your unit welcomed new players this period. Each new member represents long-term growth potential and future engagement opportunities.

1

Moved In

1

**Moved
Out**

Tracking movement helps explain membership shifts and identify local growth opportunities. Members moving in the unit are a chance for outreach, while members moving out help explain changes in the overall count.

Reinstated Members

3

These members returned to the game. Re-engagement efforts are working and more lapsed members may be within reach.

Member Expirations

5

These members became inactive. Even small reductions here can significantly improve retention and overall unit strength.

RANK BREAKDOWN FOR UNIT 191

Grand Life Master	3
Platinum Life Master	1
Emerald Life Master	3
Diamond Life Master	5
Sapphire Life Master	12
Gold Life Master	20
Ruby Life Master	26
Silver Life Master	29
Bronze Life Master	47
Life Master	16
Advanced NABC Master	6
NABC Master	41
Regional Master	50
Sectional Master	37
Club Master	57
Junior Master	58
Rookie	42

(Please refer to the ACBL website for information explaining each rank)

**Congratulations to the following members who have
achieved a new rank:**

Mark Francis—NABC Master

Margaret Burchinal—Regional Master

William Marzluff—Sectional Master

Joachim Pleil—Club Master

Stacy Brehm—**Cecily Hines**—**Linda Ramsey**—**Bob Scott**—Junior master

Congratulations!

We welcome
Steve Stone
to our Unit
191 family!

TOURNAMENT VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE!



DEANNA LARUS—Tournament chairman. No words are adequate for the job she did to organize this tournament, deal with every situation that arose, played every session, and was still smiling at the end of the day. Thank you—thank you—Deanna for making this venture happen.

MARIE KILOREN—tournament director. She managed to keep everyone moving and in the right place.

Much appreciation to the two of you from our unit!



ANN FISHER—Partnership chairman for Unit 191. Ann not only found partners for anyone who needed one but arranged for members to be designated partners. Ann arranged for 4 teams to play in the Swiss during the tournament.

BARBARA HUDSON—Partnership chairman for Unit 119. Barbara also made and transported all the boards!

Thanks for a job well done!

SUSAN OVERCASH (119) AND MARY NEWMAN (191) — Hospitality coordinators. And what a job they did! No kitchen—no running water—moving the refreshment area from a room to the hallway—they made it all happen! Plus, the refreshments were excellent and enjoyed by everyone.





We thank
our many
players—
from
both
Units 191
and Unit
119 —
who
played
multiple
sessions
and
made this
tourna-
ment a
huge
success!



AUGUST 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM - Noon Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)		9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM NAP Game (\$13)	
10	11	12	13	14	15
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM - Noon Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)	9:30 AM Limited 0-750 Game (18 boards)	9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)	
17	18	19	20	21	22
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM NAP Game (\$13) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM NEW Limited 0-750 Game (18 boards)	9:30 AM - Noon Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)		9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)	10 AM Eight is Enough Swiss Team Game
24	25	26	27	28	29
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM - Noon Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12)		9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game (\$12)	
31					
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game (\$12) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge					

Opening Lead Out Of Turn

By Marc Goldberg

Everyone knows that the opening lead is made by the Defender sitting to the left of the Declarer. On occasion, the Defender to the right of the Declarer makes the opening lead, and the Director is called. Why does this happen? Sometimes, that Defender may not be properly focused on the auction. Sometimes, the auction was very complicated with many conventions, control bids, and other bidding tricks.

Whatever the reason, there should **NEVER** be an opening Lead Out of Turn. Why is that? Law 41 requires that the opening lead be made face down. If you somehow make the opening lead as the Declarer's Right Hand Opponent (RHO), three people at the table will tell you "NO! Not your lead." Since the card was face down, you simply put it back in your hand. No harm, no foul, no Director call. Now, the correct Defender can make the opening lead.

Alas, sometimes it happens, and this violates Law 54. The Director will come to the table and give the Declarer a number of options. These are a bit complicated, so let's try to simplify them. The Director will tell the Declarer that there are five options. I like to think of it as the Declarer having 2 options, and each one of these has some sub-choices. The reason players should understand these options is that, as Declarer, you have to make a decision quickly, and you want to make the one that benefits you.

The two options are easy- the Declarer can accept the opening lead, or he can refuse to accept the opening lead. Let's look at how these two options work.

Accepting the Opening Lead

It is **rare** for the Declarer to accept the opening lead made by the incorrect Defender. The defending side is trying to set up its tricks to make things difficult for the Declarer. Why help them by accepting the lead? There may be times when it is advantageous for the Declarer to do that. If the Declarer accepts the opening lead, he can choose two ways to do that.

Declarer can accept the opening lead and see the dummy before playing from his hand. Play continues normally in a clockwise direction (Declarer will play the second card to the trick).

Declarer can accept the opening lead and let partner play the hand. Declarer's hand will become the dummy, and his partner will play the contract.

(Continued)

As mentioned, it is rare for Declarer to accept an opening lead out of turn. Only do it when you think it will be advantageous to your side. Here are two occasions where I have accepted the opening lead out of turn.

After a complicated auction, my side arrived at 6 **Hearts** with me being the declarer. My RHO tabled the 2 **of Hearts** as an opening lead. I accepted that lead because it could not hurt me. Pulling trump is a fundamental step to making a slam, and I had no problems with the heart suit. The Defender was helping me, and I would much rather have a trump lead than some other card that might have given me an early problem.

My partner opened 1NT, and the next Defender bid 2 **Hearts** (natural). I had a hand with 6 HCPs and 5 spades. It is a hand that I normally would have bid 2 **Hearts** to transfer partner to spades and then pass. My partner and I play Lebensohl (not stolen bid doubles), so the way that I show this type of hand is to bid 2 Spades, and partner should pass. 2 Spades became the contract with me as the declarer. My RHO laid down the A **of Hearts**, and the director was called. In this case, I accepted the opening lead and let my partner become the Declarer. The reason for that decision is that, as the NT opener, she had the big hand and would have been the Declarer anyway without the interference. The A **of Hearts** was probably going to win the trick anyway, so it would not likely affect the contract. It was better for our side that my partner play the hand.

Not Accepting the Opening Lead

Declarer has three choices to make.

In most cases, the Declarer will not accept the incorrect opening lead and will require that his LHO make the lead. In choosing this option, the Declarer can require LHO to lead the suit that was led by the incorrect defender. In that case, RHO puts the card back in his hand and can play any card in that suit. If LHO wins the trick (or tricks), he must continue leading the suit until he loses the lead or has no more of that suit.

Declarer can require LHO to lead any suit EXCEPT for the suit that was led by the incorrect defender. In that case, RHO puts the card back in his hand and then follows to the new suit. LHO must refrain from leading that suit as long as he retains the lead.

Declarer can allow LHO to lead any suit they choose, and the incorrect opening lead remains on the table as a penalty card. (Penalty Cards will be discussed in a future article.)

The reason players must understand these options is that Declarer must make a decision about how to proceed, so they must look at their hand to see which option would benefit them the most. Let's look at some examples.

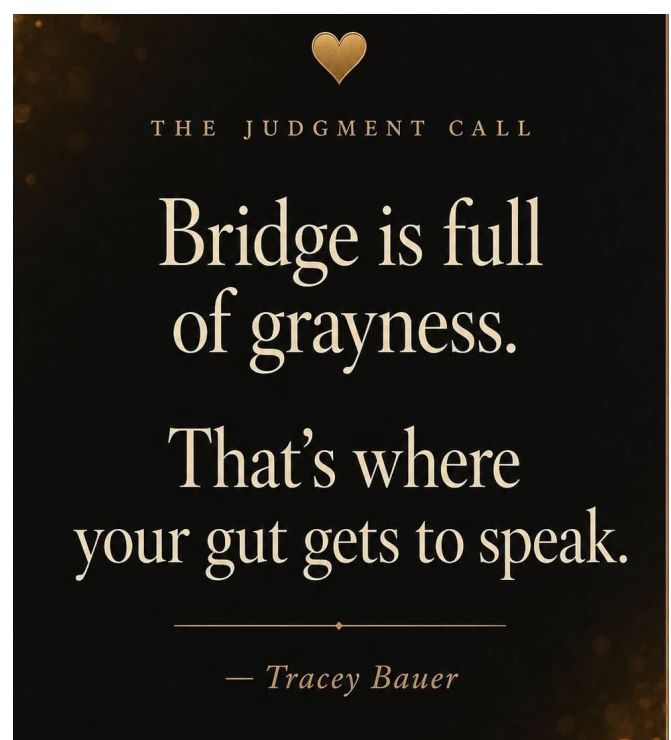
(Continued)

You are the Declarer in 4 Spades. Your RHO puts down the 8 of Clubs as the opening lead. Your club holding is AQ6. You would be very happy for LHO to lead a club since that eliminates your having to guess on the club finesse. You tell the Director that you do not accept RHO's lead, and that you require LHO to lead a club. RHO puts the 8 of Clubs back in his hand. Now, the Q of Clubs is a guaranteed trick.

You are the Declarer in 4 Spades. Your RHO puts down the Q of Hearts as the opening lead. Your heart holding is K84, and it looks like you could lose 3 heart tricks before you even get started. You tell the Director that you do not accept RHO's lead, and that you require LHO to lead any suit EXCEPT hearts. RHO puts the Q of Hearts back in his hand, and you play the hand, hoping that you can figure out where to put your losing hearts later.

You are the Declarer in 4 Spades. Your RHO puts down the 5 of Diamonds as the opening lead. Looking at your hand, it is difficult to tell what the lead means and if a diamond lead will help you or hurt you. Without positive information, you tell the Director that you do not accept the RHO's lead, that LHO can lead any suit they want, and that the 5 of Diamonds will remain on the table as a penalty card to be played by LHO at his first opportunity.

What should you take from this article? First, always make your opening lead face down and confirm it is your lead. That will save a Director call in the case that you are not the Defender with the lead. Second, if you are the Declarer when an improper opening lead is made, you now have some information to guide you to the best decision.



The Science of Duplicate Bridge: A Compilation of Pseudoscience Monographs: Mangurian, Harry: 9798255751662: Amazon.com: Books

The Science of Duplicate Bridge: A Compilation of Pseudoscience Monographs [Mangurian, Harry] on Amazon.com. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The Science of Duplicate Bridge: A Compilation of Pseudoscience Monographs

 <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0GWR6WK95>

The Science of Duplicate Bridge: A Compilation of Pseudoscience Monographs is a humorous, tongue-in-cheek book edited by **Barry Buehler**. It applies complex real-world laws to explain the chaos and frustrations of a club bridge game. The book features humorous, pseudo-scientific analyses of common bridge scenarios, such as applying thermodynamics to bad finesses, studying ‘relativistic’ overbidding, and using, for instance, genetic or physical theories to explain in-game events.

All profits from the book go to the ACBL Educational Foundation.

Barry is a member of Unit 191 and lives in Hillsborough.

a brief promo is at:

