

THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

OCTOBER 2026

From our Co-Presidents...

About a year and a half ago, two regular guys who played regularly at TBA's regular games were approached by a super friendly gentleman, also known to be a regular guy who regularly plays at TBA's duplicate games. His ask was the same to both: ***Would you consider serving on the board of Unit 191?***

I doubt that either of us was 100% convinced we knew the difference between TBA, our home for bridge in Durham, and Unit 191. The ACBL itself seemed pretty far off!

A year and a half later, we are your Unit 191 co-presidents, Morris and Ray. Now good friends, we barely even knew each other back then. We both said "yes" to the ask because of the important place our bridge community plays in our lives. Spending afternoons with smart and interesting people. Laughing a lot. Improving our games in the company of like-minded folks.

When thinking about serving on our Board, you can set aside the idea that your bridge game isn't good enough. Or you're too new, or not rich enough. No one will ask you to donate money, or how many MPs you have. What is really required is to love the game, and to enjoy playing with the folks you know in our community here.

The board's primary responsibilities are to reflect the concerns of our membership,

and to serve our membership by hosting local tournaments and other services. Some folks have special experience or talents, but not all do. When we meet we try to make the best judgments we can to serve our membership. Doesn't sound so scary! You could probably do it!

It's not too much to say that the community which has given all of us so much pleasure, stimulation and friendship needs all the nurturing we can provide. Sometimes it's time to give something back.

What if someone asks you to help support our bridge community by joining Unit 191's governing board prior to our upcoming election in December? Guaranteed—you can learn on the job, and you will have fun and frustration in equal measure.

Unit 191 loves volunteers, as you know! If you would like to have your name on the ballot for December's election, that's great! Simply communicate your intention to Ray or Morris prior to October 5 if possible.

But, if and when the ask comes, consider putting your talents and good nature to work on behalf of our community, the home for Triangle Bridge Academy, Roxboro Duplicate Bridge Club, Governor's Club and Fearnington Bridge Club. You'll be welcomed with open arms.

Ray Boylan and Morris Weinberger

Unit 191 Co-Presidents

OCTOBER 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3
			12 PM ABA Bridge (private game)	9:30 AM – Noon Supervised Play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	
5	6	7	8	9	10
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game (\$12) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer 750 Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	12 PM ABA Bridge (private game)	Slam Bidding Workshop Part I 9:30-Noon 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	
12	13	14	15	16	17
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer 750 Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 11:45 AM Lesson 12:30 PM Tier II MM Game 12:30 PM Stratified Open	12 PM ABA Bridge (private game)	Slam Bidding Workshop Part II 9:30-Noon 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	10 AM Eight is Enough Swiss Team Game
19	20	21	22	23	24
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Limited 0-750 Game (18 boards)	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	12 PM ABA Bridge (private game)	9:30 AM – Noon Supervised Play 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game (\$12)	
26	27	28	29	30	31
9-11 AM Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM – 11:30 am Supervised play 11:45 AM Lesson 12:30 PM Tier I MM Game 12:30 PM Stratified Open	12 PM ABA Bridge (private game)	9:30 AM – Noon Beginner's Supervised Play 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	

CLAIMS AND CONCESSIONS

By Marc Goldberg

We all know that a hand consists of playing 13 tricks and then tallying up the totals to score the hand. Many times, more experienced players will know the results of the remaining cards near the end of the hand, and they will choose to make a statement that ends the play before all the tricks have been played. Sometimes, Claims and Concessions are made improperly, and that is when the Director becomes involved.

Claims and Concessions are covered in Laws 68-72 in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

A Claim is any statement by Declarer or a Defender to the effect that a side will win a specific number of tricks. A player also claims when he suggests that play be curtailed, or when he faces his hand.

A Concession is any statement by Declarer or a Defender to the effect that a side will lose a specific number of tricks. A Claim of some number of tricks is a Concession of any remaining tricks.

Claims require clarification, and Law 68c may be the most important feature of the law. It states, *A claim should be accompanied at once by a clear statement of the line of play or defense through which the claimer proposes to win the tricks claimed, including the order in which the cards will be played. The player making the claim or concession faces his hand.*

So, under the law, it is not good enough to say "The rest are mine." You must explain your line of play for the remainder of the cards.

After a claim or concession, play is suspended. If both sides agree with the statement, the board is scored as though the tricks claimed or conceded had been won or lost in play. If the claim or concession is doubted by any player (dummy included), the Director is called, and no further action should be taken until he arrives.

Sometimes, a player is unsure whether to agree to the claim or

not and says, "let's just play it out." This is only permitted if all four players concur (dummy, you get a vote here). In that case, the claim or concession is void. Normally, after a claim that is contested, play does not continue, and the Director is called.

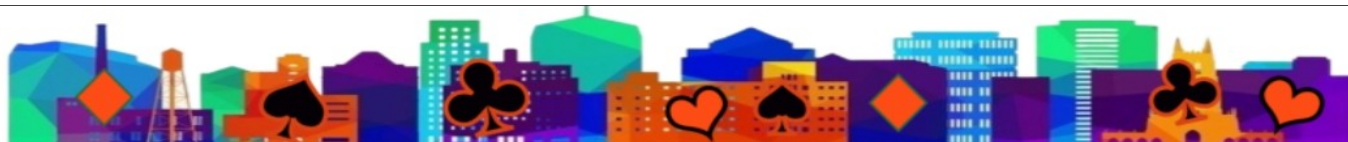
The Director will make a determination based on the claimer's statement and the cards remaining in the hand. The burden is on the player who claimed. If there is a reasonable line of play available, the Director will normally side with the non-claiming side. One of the biggest problems with claims is when there is an outstanding trump card out, and the claimer did not address it in his statement. If the claiming statement said, "I will draw the last trump and then run my good clubs," all is fine. If the claimer does not mention the outstanding trump, the Director will assume that the claimer was unaware of the outstanding trump and will award a trick to the other side if there is a reasonable line of play.

When done correctly, Claiming and Conceding tricks is a good practice- it shortens the play when it is clear how the remaining cards will play out in a hand. But, there are many opportunities to make an incorrect claim if a player is not entirely sure of the play. Here are some of the key takeaways on claims:

Newer players are discouraged from making claims. There is too much room for error. Just play out the hand. Experienced players will know what you are doing. Often, they know how the hand will go and will Claim/Concede for you.

Intermediate and Advanced players are encouraged to Claim/Concede when it is appropriate to do so. Always make a clear statement as to your line of play.

For any player claiming, make sure you address any outstanding trump cards. Failing to do so will likely cause the Director to rule against you.



Bright Leaf Unit 191 invites you to its Fall Sectional

**New Location-
More Space
Better Chairs!!**

November 12 - 15, 2026

Levin Jewish Community Center (Jewish for Good)
1937 W.Cornwallis Road
Durham, NC 27705

THURSDAY, November 12

7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS (held at TBA) *

*** Thursday night's Swiss Team Game will be held at
The Triangle Bridge Academy
2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC 27707**

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

FRIDAY, November 13

10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 499'er PAIRS

**Stratification & bracketing for
all games by average pair/team
masterpoints. Strats may be
adjusted at the discretion of the
director.**

SATURDAY, November 14

10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 499'er PAIRS

SUNDAY, November 15

10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749ER SWISS TEAMS

**PLAY THROUGH WITH LUNCH INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE - \$140
PER TEAM**

Open Stratification:

0-1500, 1500 - 3500, 3500+

499'er Stratification

0-99, 100-299, 300-499

749'er Stratification:

0-300, 300-500, 500-750

ENTRY FEE: \$14/PLAYER/GAME

0-10 MP play for free!

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NEARBY LODGING

LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES

4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC
919-401-9660 \$130+/ NIGHT (includes breakfast)
Book early: prices will increase as available rooms
decrease(no group rate)



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Activity reported in Unit 191 from

August 1-August 31 2026

445 members

Congratulations to the following persons who
have achieved a new rank:

JUNIOR MASTER

Rick Kreiselman

CLUB MASTER

Stewart Johnson

Carole Ricker

Robert Thomas

SECTIONAL MASTER

Neil Evans, Jr

Ted Michie

Martha Schulwitz

REGIONAL MASTER

Bill Chappell

Kathy Coburn

Henry Luftman

Laura Ross

NABC MASTER

David Dickinson

Anne Hershey

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Cathy Simon

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

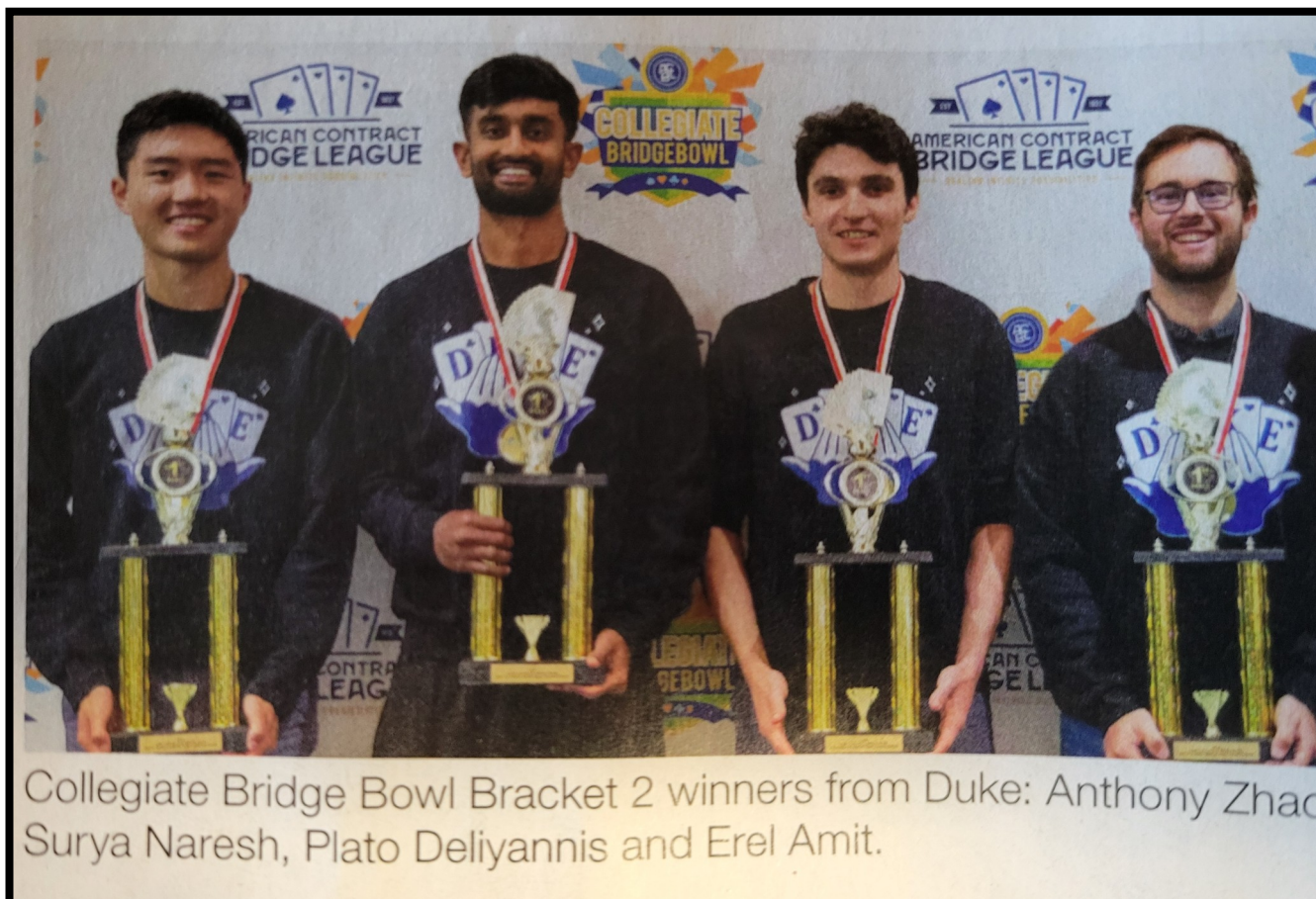
Barbara Martin

BRIDGE UN- LEASHED BY TRACEY

The strongest bridge players aren't the ones who learn everything at once. They're the ones who build a foundation and add new skills one layer at a time.

If a concept feels challenging today, it doesn't mean you can't master it, it simply means you're still building your game. Every lesson strengthens the basics, and over time, the advanced ideas become much more natural.

Trust the process, stay curious, and keep playing. Progress in bridge is built one step at a time.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DUKE BRIDGE TEAM FOR CAPTURING FIRST PLACE IN THE COLLEGIATE BOWL!

Thanks to so many Unit 191 members who showed up to support the sectional tournament held in Raleigh last weekend. Not only were there many players from our unit there, but check the results and you will see that our members did very well in the winners' circle. Congratulations all! I would like to list all the unit 191 winners, but that would take lots of space! Special recognition to the following up-and-coming bridge players:

Anne Hersey and Margaret Burchinal— placed first in the 499 in both sessions on Saturday.

Bill Chappell and Crawford Crenshaw—second in the 499 event. Bill also placed in several other events.

Stanley Wilson and Hunter Brooks—First overall in the B/C/D game on Friday

Mark Francis and Dan Snedecor—3rd in the 499 game

Vanessa Brown and Carrie Dailey—first in the 499er game

Paul Cornwell—3rd on a team in the Thursday open Swiss

In the overall Sunday Swiss, there were 25 winners from our unit! Well done all—please take a minute to check the results.

Breaking News from the Card Table: 🍁 October Is Bringing Tricks, Treats & Plenty of Bridge!

The leaves may be changing, but the cards are staying busy at the Roxboro ACBL Bridge Club! October has some exciting games, special events, extra points, and plenty of opportunities to get together with fellow bridge players.



URGENT: Wednesday Night Bridge Needs Reinforcements... There is especially important news for our Wednesday evening players: we need YOU!

Wednesday Night Bridge Needs More Players

Our Wednesday evening game is a great opportunity to get together, play some bridge, and enjoy a relaxed evening at the club. We especially welcome our newer players—**grace is always shown on Wednesday evenings!** It is a wonderful time to build confidence, ask questions, and enjoy the game without feeling intimidated.

However, we need additional players to keep Wednesday night bridge going.

Remember, we need **at least 2½ tables** to make a sanctioned game. So, grab your partner, invite a friend, and come out on Wednesday evening. We meet at the Person County Senior Center and the game begins at 7:15 PM. Every table helps!

🍁 Wednesday, October 21 — GOLD POINT GAME in Henderson, sponsored by the Oxford Bridge Club

Here's some especially exciting news for those looking for a unique bridge experience!

Chip Hughes is offering a GOLD POINT game on Wednesday, October 21st.

This is a special nationally played event. The **same pre-set hands will be played nationwide on this day**, giving players the opportunity to see how their results compare with others playing the identical hands.

Even better, the top **North-South and East-West pairs in the game will each receive a full Gold Point!**

The hands will be **pre-dealt**, and **printed summary booklets** will be available afterward so players can analyze and discuss the hands.

What You Need to Know

Wednesday, October 21st at the Henderson County Club

Game fee: \$10, The Food: \$20, because this special Wednesday event requires the ballroom at the Country Club, our agreement with the Club requires that food be provided. The Club will provide beverages and upscale appetizers that you can enjoy throughout the day.

Total cost: \$30 per person

Reservation deadline: Tuesday, October 13th, Reservations Are Required

Because this is a special event with registration and food arrangements, **your reservation must be received by Tuesday, October 13.**

👻 Monday, October 26th — A Spooktacular Bridge Luncheon!

Get ready for a little Halloween fun at the club!

On **Monday, October 26th**, we're hosting a **Spooktacular Bridge Lunch and Championship Game** featuring **extra points!**

Costumes are **encouraged but not required**—so whether you arrive as a witch, a ghost, a favorite bridge celebrity, or simply your usual fabulous self, you'll be welcome at the table.

Lunch + Game: Only \$7 per person

IMPORTANT: You MUST preregister by Wednesday, October 21st.

We need an accurate head count so we know **how many pizzas to order**. Please don't wait until the last minute to let us know you're coming!

Come hungry, come ready to play, and come prepared for a frightfully fun afternoon of bridge.



📅 Mark Your Calendars!

October is shaping up to be a month full of cards, competition, food, fun, and friendship.

October 13 — Deadline to reserve for the Gold Point game

October 21 — Gold Point game + upscale appetizers — \$30/person

October 21 — Deadline to preregister for the Halloween luncheon

October 26 — Spooktacular Bridge Lunch & Championship Game — \$7/person

It will be a spooktacular day for taking tricks... and maybe a few opponents by surprise!

And remember: **Wednesday night bridge needs YOU!** With a minimum of 2½ tables required for a sanctioned game, bringing along another player could make all the difference.

So, shuffle those cards, invite a partner, put October 21st and October 26th on your calendar—and let's make October a month to remember!

Happy Bridging—and may your October hands be more treat than trick! 🍬

EERIE BRIDGE EXPRESSIONS

A GHOST IN THE DUMMY—finding out the dummy hand has an unexpected void or holding that haunts your chance of making a contract

THE GRAVEYARD SQUEEZE—a punishing endgame technique where an opponent is squeezed into discarding a vital winner, sending their trick potential to the cemetery

A SKELETON HAND—a hand loaded with singletons and voids, leaving only a “bare bones” structure of high cards

WITCH HUNT FOR THE QUEEN—desperately leading through a suit to unearth a hidden honor card (like the queen) sitting right under your nose

TRICK OR TREAT FINESSE—taking a risky 50/50 guess on a finesse where landing it is a “treat” and losing it means going down

A DEAD HAND—a hand with zero defensive values or offensive tricks, completely lifeless in the current contract

BIDDING FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE—overbidding recklessly after your partnership has already been doubled and doomed



**WISHING EVERYONE A “SPOOKTACULAR”
AND SAFE HALLOWEEN!!**