

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

OCTOBER, 2024



Dear Unit Members and Friends,
As we prepare for our upcoming Fall Unit Sectional at a new venue, we need your support! This event requires extra planning and manpower. Please review the volunteer opportunities and consider how you can help. Your assistance is valuable. The dates for the sectional are November 7 – 10. Check out the updated flyer for more details.

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our two-tiered Mentor-Mentee program. In September, we had 34 players in Tier I and 20 in Tier II. If you're interested in being a mentor—whether for a single session or more—please reach out to **Michael Lavine**. Often, we need substitute mentors. It's not too late to join in the fun and learn more about the game as a mentee or mentor. Many thanks to our talented MM committee – **Alison Bowes, Beverly Craig, Maggie Smith, Joan Roberts, Morris Weinberger, Barbara Bute, Michael Lavine and Ed Fuller**.

October is Club Appreciation Month with upgraded awards for players. Face-to-face clubs may host special Club Appreciation Games during the month, and Virtual Clubs will automatically participate in Club Appreciation Week, October 21-27. These games award 81.8% sectional-rated black points.

See you at the table,

Ann, President of Unit 191

UNIT 191 SHINES IN THE DISTRICT 7 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS COMPETITION

ACBL District 7 held their North American Pairs (NAP) competition on September 21-22 in Charlotte. **Ian Cloudsdale and Marc Goldberg** finished third overall in the Flight B competition (0-2500 MP). They will represent District 7 in the Golder North American Pairs Flight B completion at the NABC in Memphis next March. Good luck, guys! **Michael Lavine and Renee Getz** also made a strong showing and finished eighth overall.

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!

Much planning has gone into the unit tournament to be held November 7-10. Because the venue is new, there are many opportunities for our members to volunteer. Please contact **Deanna Larus** at Deanna@elarus.com or **Ann Fisher** at afisher9tk@gmail.com if you might be willing to help at the tournament. Contributions of food or cash are accepted. Hope to see many of our unit 191 members at the tournament.



WHAT DO YOU BID?

By Randy Joyce

On a Friday afternoon at the TBA, all East players were confronted with the following hand:

S--- None

H---AKQ

D---Kxxxx

C—AKQxx

After a Pass on your right, do you open 2 Clubs with your 21 HCP, or do you open 1 Diamond foreseeing problems ahead after a 2 Club bid?

I did an informal poll of players that I considered sound bidders and the vote was split about 50-50. If your partner responds 2 Diamonds (non-bust) to your 2 Club bid, you almost have to bid 3 Diamonds on your not-so-robust suit. Heaven forbid that partner responds 2 Heart and you have to bid that awful suit at the 3 level, knowing that partner holds a bust.

If my suits had been the majors, I would agree to bidding this way since I could then bid 2 Spades over 2 Hearts. and partner would owe me another bid. There is a popular misconception that the 2 Heart bidder can now Pass. Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! Even if you hold a ZERO-count, you owe partner at least 1 more bid to handle hands like this.

OK, partner bids 2 Diamonds, you raise to 3 Diamonds, and Partner bids 3NT. What now? Partner didn't seem thrilled with Diamonds and, at pairs scoring, 9 tricks is easier than 11 tricks and scores more.

After the inevitable Spade lead, you hope that partner has them well stopped..

Partner's hand was:

S----QT8xx

H----xxx

D---Jx

C---Jxx

4 HCP is recognized as a non-bust. The defense led a Spade and played AK and another Spade. Your partner sees 9 tricks and grabs the Spade Q and takes his tricks. This scores a next to top.

He lost only to your intrepid reporter who had a different auction and declarer. I opened the bidding 1 Diamond and Kay bid 1 Spade. We play a Weak NT, so it would be a little silly to play 1 Diamond in a potential 3-2 fit with a 5-4 fit in spades and strong NT strength available out of partner. I jumped shifted to 3 Clubs. (Absolutely forcing to game.) (Just short of a 2 Club bid.) Kay bid a chipper 3 Diamonds, and I closed the auction with 3NT. I got a low Spade lead and thanked Kay for her dummy. For those of you that know me well, I really didn't.

I stuck in the 8 of Spades and was pleased to see it fetch the Jack on my right. A Spade came back to the A and K. I pitched Diamonds on all these tricks.

Facing an entry less dummy, my LHO reasonably got out a Heart. I won this trick and got to dummy with the Club Jack and pitched the rest of my Diamonds on the Spades. Making 4! I got to pitch all my Diamonds on the Spades!

I don't know whose methods are better on this hand. I do know what works for me, and you should always strive to do what works for you. I really think.

Cheating at Bridge (specifically, on BBO)

By Marc and Suzie Goldberg

One of the great joys of bridge is the fairness of the game. While we love to win, nearly all bridge players would rather lose than cheat. Cheating in face-to-face bridge is rare and difficult, but there have been several notorious examples. Look up “bridge cheating scandals” on YouTube. We hardly ever encounter cheating at the bridge clubs.

Cheating on BBO is a bit more problematic. Many of us have observed cheating during online play. It is much easier to do, and much harder to detect and prove. Players could be playing in the same room and talk to one another, be connected by phone or text, or several other ways to cheat. It is annoying when you get a low board and later discover that the result was likely due to cheating.

For example, in a BBO virtual club game, you are South playing in 4S. Standard auction- 1S-2S-4S all pass. The opening lead is the 9 of clubs. Later, you see the West hand:

♠ 4
♥ KQ52
♦ KQ64
♣ 9863

West has two standard choices of leads- either K would be a good choice. Somehow, West’s lead finds East with a void. The ruff results in down one. Cheating or no? Would a normal player find that lead? Would an expert? You are probably fuming that there was likely some collaboration where East screamed at West- LEAD A CLUB!!! Maybe their telepathic skills were well developed.

So, what do you do?

Reporting the suspected cheating is easy on BBO, and it only takes a few key strokes. After the hand is completed, look at the hand record for the board. This usually appears in the bottom right of the display, but it could be in a different place if you are playing on a tablet or mobile phone. Click on the menu block (blue square with the three horizontal lines) and click “Export.” One of the export options will be “Report to Abuse,” so click on that. A comment block will appear where you can type in your concern. Then hit send. Very simple.

BBO will investigate the board. Maybe nothing will come of it, but maybe a cheater will be exposed. If you suspect cheating is going on, it is your duty to report it. We all need to work to keep the integrity of the game intact.

Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee program

In 2024/25 the unit is sponsoring a two-tiered mentor/mentee program. Tier I, the lower level, is limited to mentees who have fewer than 250 masterpoints and mentors who have fewer than 500. Tier II, the upper level, is unlimited. Mentees in Tier II, if they have fewer than 500 points, are encouraged to be mentors in Tier I and receive priority for getting Tier II mentors.

Unit 191 held its first Mentor/Mentee game of 2024/25 on Tuesday, September 10th. It was a Tier II game. The game had five full tables. Congratulations to the winners, **Catherine Pleil and Marc Goldberg**. The game was preceded by a lesson from Marc Goldberg on ***Making a Declarer Plan***. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the notes. After the game several mentors and mentees met at Foster's Market for lunch and discussion. We hope to make that a Unit 191 tradition; you are all invited to join us at Foster's after next month's game on October 8.

Michael Lavine wrote comments on several hands from the September 10 game, which you can find on the Unit's web site under the Mentoring Program tab, or by **CLICKING HERE**.

Tier I games will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM. The first game will be on September 24. Tier II games will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM and will be preceded by a half-hour lesson beginning at 9:15. The next game will be on October 8. 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 mentor's fees.

If you are unable to play in a particular M/M game, please let us know in advance so we can either find a substitute for you or let you be a substitute who does not otherwise have a partner. It's also a courtesy to your MM partner; no one likes to be stood up when they're expecting to play.

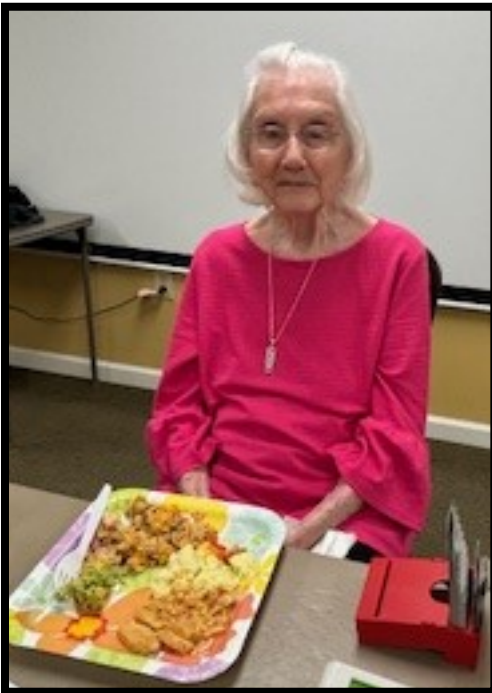
In summary:

1. We are running a **two-tiered** program this year. See above for details.
2. **Pairs who are not in the M/M program are invited to join the M/M game.** To join a Tier I game one player must have fewer than 250 masterpoints and the other must have fewer than 500.
3. After the Tier II games, mentors and mentees are invited to meet at **Foster's Market** for lunch and discussion.
4. If and when you are unable to play, **please let us know**, so we can match your partner with someone else.



To celebrate Mexican Independence Day, a celebration was held at TBA. **Richard Cole** and **Connie Ellinwood** started the tradition in 2016, but there have been no festivities since covid. Richard, **Joanna Karwowska** and other volunteers provided margaritas and traditional Mexican food to start the Monday game on Sept. 16. **Salud!!!**





TACO BOUT A PARTY!!!



What a fun day at TBA for bridge lovers! No word from anyone whether or not margaritas helped or distracted from the game. Thanks to Skip and Melanie Riva, and Phylliss Woody for the photos.

new location

Unit 191 Bright Leaf
invites you to our

Fall Sectional Tournament

November 7-10, 2024

Old Murphey School
3717 Murphy School Road
Durham, NC 27705

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER
10 AM 149'er PAIRS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9
10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
10 AM 149'er PAIRS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS

10 AM 149'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+

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

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

TOURNAMENT CHAIR
Deanna Larus deanna@elarus.com
(919)656-9666

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR
Ann Fisher afisher9tk@gmail.com
(919)417-7176

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

NEARBY LODGING
Durham Hilton
3800 Hillsborough Rd, Durham, NC 27705
(5.5 miles from Old Murphey School)
(919) 383-8033

LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES
4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC
919-401-9660
(6.7 miles from Old Murphey School)



There is no group rate.

ACBL UNIT 191 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Includes all transactions processed August 31, 2024 through October 1,
2024

TOTAL MEMBERS - 493

NEW MEMBER

Libby Broadwell

TRANSFERRED INTO UNIT

Dave Dolan

Linda Mills

Debbie Sears

Michael Sears

Neil Stern

NEW CLUB MASTER

Douglas Bordewieck

Submitted by **Phylliss Woody**, Membership Chair October, 2024

Unit 191 members, please check the Directory on our unit website (unit191bridge.org) and report to me (pwoody@unc.edu) (919) 612-7711) any changes or corrections that need to be made. Please remember Contact information in this directory is provided as a courtesy to Unit 191 members. **Unauthorized use of this information is forbidden.**

October 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 1:00-4:00PM Nuplicate Barometer	2 12:30PM Club Appreciation Game	3 12:30PM ABA pairs (private)	4 12:30PM Club Appreciation Game	5 10:00AM Club Cham- pionship
6	7 12:30PM Unit cham- pionship	8 Mentor- Mentee T2 9:15AM Lesson 10:00AM Game	9 12:30PM Stratified Open Game	10 12:30PM ABA pairs (private)	11 12:30PM Stratified Open Game	12 10:00AM Club Appreci- ation Game
13	14 12:30PM Club Appreciation Game	15 1:00-4:00PM Nuplicate Barometer	16 12:30PM Club Appreciation Game	17 12:30PM ABA pairs (private)	18 12:30PM Unit Cham- pionship	19 10:00AM 8 is Enough Swiss Teams
20	21 12:30PM Stratified Open Game	22 Mentor- Mentee T1 12:30 Lesson 1:00 Game	23 1 2:30PM Stratified Open Game	24 1 2:30PM ABA pairs (private)	25 12:30PM Club appre- ciation Game	26 10:00AM Stratified Open Game
27	28 12:30PM Club Appreciation Game	29 1:00-4:00PM Nuplicate Barpmeter	30 12:30PM Stratified Open Pairs	31 12:30PM ABA pairs (private)	Happy Hal- loween	