

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – JULY 2024



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President's Corner

Dear Unit Members,

Beat the summer heat and join us for a game of F2F bridge. This month, TBA is sponsoring two 'Eight is Enough' Swiss Team Games. The first game will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, July 6, and the second game will be at 10 AM on Saturday, July 20. Don't miss out on the fun!

Unit 191 invites you to participate in the Bright Leaf Summer Sectional, taking place from July 25-28. Your support through donations or volunteering for hospitality or as a guaranteed partner would be greatly valued by the board. Further details about the tournament can be found below.

We had a great turnout for our Unit Championship Game last Friday. Join us for another exciting UCG on Monday, July 15, and seize the opportunity to win even more masterpoints!

In this Alert you will also find that Marc has written a very interesting analysis of a hand that he had while I was his opponent last Friday. There are some good questions that partnerships should address. Yes, my partner and I were one of three unlucky pairs that day!

See you at the table,

Ann

Bright Leaf Unit 191's Summer Tournament

It's tournament time! You are invited to stay cool and have fun at Unit 191's Summer Sectional Bridge Tournament at Triangle Bridge Academy (2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham NC) on July 25-28, 2024. We will offer:

- Swiss team games on Thursday night and Sunday.
- Sunday will include an Open Swiss game, a (0-750) Swiss game, and a single Novice (0-149) session Swiss game
- Lunch will be available for purchase on Sunday for those playing Swiss teams.
- Open and Limited (0-750) pairs games on Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons. Bonus silver points for both afternoon games!

- Beginner games: Both Friday and Saturday morning we plan to run a Novice pairs game (0-149) if we have 3 tables of players. So recruit your friends from your novice bridge classes and join us! *ALL players with 0-5 masterpoints will play for free!* Come and give it a try!

If you need a partner or teammates, we will try to help you. We are also looking for guaranteed partners for the open and limited Friday and Saturday sessions. Please contact Ann Fisher (afisher9tk@gmail.com or 919-417-7176). Other questions? Please contact our Tournament Chair, Deanna Larus (deanna@elarus.com or 919-656-9666).

The tournament flyer is below.



Summer Bridge in The Bull City

July 25 - 28, 2024

Triangle Bridge Academy
2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham, NC

THURSDAY, July 25
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, July 26
10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER
10 AM 149'er PAIRS

SATURDAY, July 27
10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
10 AM 149'er PAIRS

SUNDAY, July 28
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS
PLAYTHROUGH WITH LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
10 AM 149'er SINGLE SESSION SWISS TEAM GAME

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

**Strata for all Open and
Swiss team games will be
based on the masterpoint
average of the pair or
team.**

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

ENTRY FEE: \$13/PLAYER/GAME
0-5 MP play for free!

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

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



NEARBY LODGING
LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES
4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC
919-401-9660
There is no group rate.



July Game Schedule

(F2F games at Triangle Bridge Academy; limited games dependent on number of tables; please refer to the tournament flyer for game times Thursday, July 25 – Sunday, July 28)

Monday

9:00 AM -11:00 am - Play and Learn Online

12:30 PM - Stratified Open Pairs (Monday, July 15 will be a Unit Championship Game)

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM – Wine and Cheese Social Bridge

Tuesday

1:30 PM 0-500 Barometer game (no game on July 16)

Wednesday

12:30 PM - Stratified Open Pairs

Friday

12:30 PM - Open and 0-500 limited games (sectional tournament games at 10 & 2 on July 26)

Saturday (no Saturday mini lessons this month)

10:00 AM -Open and 0-500 limited games on July 13 (sectional tournament games at 10 & 2 on July 27)

10:00 AM - Eight is Enough Swiss Team Games on July 6 and July 20

Online Games

Monday 7:00 PM VACB 183376 Open SE Carolina Triangle (Triangle Bridge)

Various starting times daily (9:30 AM, 1:05 PM, 3:45 PM, 7:05 PM and 9:30 PM) VACB 248732 and VACB 244657 Knoxville SEBCC Alliance (Triangle Bridge Academy)

Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

July 5-7 [Pinehurst Sectional](#)

July 10-13 [Flat Rock NLM Regional and Open Sectional](#)

July 19-22 [Wilmington Sectional](#)

July 25-28 [Durham Sectional](#)

August 2-4 [Pawley's Island NLM Sectional](#)

August 2-4 [Macon, Georgia Sectional](#)

August 8-10 [Knoxville, TN Sectional](#)

August 16-18 [Winston-Salem Sectional](#)

Membership Report

(TOTAL MEMBERS 496)

Congratulations for a new level of achievement to:

Sectional Master – Ray Boylan

NABC Master – Gerri Stanczyk, Larry Stanczyk

Advanced NABC Master – Jeffrey Kimmel, Michael Lavine

Bronze Life Master – Elliot Cramer, Gail King, Carol Skowvron

Silver Life Master – Dr. J. Gray McAllister III

Hand of the Month

A Slam Bidding Evaluation
By Marc Goldberg

At a recent Unit 191 Championship game, North picked up a terrific hand. With 26 HCPs and all four aces, this could be the best hand North has ever seen. NS are not vulnerable, EW are vulnerable.

♠ AKQJ107

♥ AQ65

♦ A

♣ AQ

North likely has 4♠ in her own hand, even if partner is completely broke. Nine tricks cold, and the tenth could come from the opening lead or if partner has anything at all to contribute. North plans to open 2♣ and then show her outstanding spades.

North, however, is not the dealer. South deals and opens 2♥. This gives North a lot to think about.

What kind of hand would you expect your partners have to open 2♥ in first seat at favorable vulnerability? Would they have fewer than 6 hearts? Preempting with a 5-card suit may occur in some situations, but rarely on the opening bid. Would a 2♥ preempt guarantee the ♥K? Might they preempt with ♥JTxxx or worse? Could they have fewer than 5 HCPs? What is your partnership's style on preempts? You might discuss this with your partners to understand how to proceed.

With a ten-card fit in hearts, that suit looks attractive for a game or slam. Could North explore a fit in spades? Would a bid of 2♠ be forcing in your system or not? And what would it mean? This is another topic to discuss with your partner.

In determining the best place to play, North should consider the number of tricks she might take in various contracts. Unless she is having an unlucky day where LHO has 6 spades to the 8, spades will yield 6 tricks. With a ten-card fit in hearts, the suit will yield 6 tricks if South's suit is headed by the ♥K and 5 sure tricks if the suit is headed by the ♥J. Plus, she has two tricks from the minor suit aces. Without the ♥K, 6♥ looks like the safest contract. No-trump could be at risk on a diamond lead where the ♦A is the only stopper. Opponents might run a lot of diamond tricks after they win the ♥K.

How can North find out if South has the ♥K? Bidding 2NT will not work for pairs who play that bid asks for a feature. Nor will it work well if the 2NT bid is Ogust, which asks partner to describe their hand and their suit. South will likely say they have a "poor" suit even if they have the ♥K. A bid of 4NT could work depending on partnership agreement. Some pairs play that, without a known fit (ie: both of the pairs have bid and agreed on a suit), 4NT is regular Blackwood- tell me how many aces you have. In this case, North already knows the answer, so the final contract would just be a guess. Some pairs play that 4NT is key card asking for the last bid suit. In this case, South would answer 5♣ showing one key card, the ♥K. That is all the

information that North needs. She now sees 6 spade tricks, 6 heart tricks, and two minor suit ace tricks- more than enough to bid 7NT. (Note: 4NT as key card asking works in this case. In other cases, 4NT as regular Blackwood without a known fit might be the winning tactic. This article is not suggesting that one method is superior to the other.)

Of the eight tables that played this board, three bid and made 7NT. One bid 6NT (made 7), two bid 6♥ (made 7), one bid 6♠ (made 7), and one bid 4♥ (made 7).

Fundamentally, making a bridge contract is about taking tricks. Evaluating your hand from a trick-taking standpoint can help you find the best contract for competing in duplicate bridge. Here is the full deal.

Dir: S **19**
 Vul: EW

	♠ A K Q J 10 7	
	♥ A Q 6 5	
26	♦ A	
4 4	♣ A Q	
6		

♠ 9	♠ 8 5 4 3 2
♥ 3	♥ J 8
♦ K J 8 6 5 3	♦ 10 7 4
♣ 10 6 5 4 3	♣ K 7 2

	♠ 6
	♥ K 10 9 7 4 2
	♦ Q 9 2
	♣ J 9 8

[Double Dummy Makes ?](#)

N/S: 7♥ 7♠ 7NT ♣6 ♦5	
E/W: 1♦ ♣5 ♥0 ♠0 NT0	

[Par Score ?](#)

Par: 1520 7NT-NS