

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

JANUARY 2025

President's Corner

January 2025

Dear Unit Members,

Happy New Year! The members of the board look forward to seeing each of you in the coming year. The board is planning a special game and lunch in February – most likely during the week of Valentine's Day. Stay tuned for details.

2024 has seen a number of changes in our local bridge community. While we have not seen the return to F2F bridge that we had hoped for, there is an uptick in the weekly games at Triangle Bridge Academy, the Fearington Bridge Club and the Governors Club Bridge Club. The Roxboro Bridge Club has also returned to active status during 2024 (they had folded during the pandemic).

The board is actively looking for sectional tournament space. We have some good leads and are continuing to explore space near Governors Club and looking at the possibility of space through Durham Parks and Recreation facilities. Many thanks to those of you who have made helpful suggestions. Overall, the board believes that the Old Murphey School was an adequate space but was noisy and had low light in the afternoons and at night. Having a sectional in a space that does not have card tables and chairs (especially chairs) is challenging. Again, many thanks to all of you who worked so diligently to help us set up for our fall sectional.

We are especially grateful to the Mentor Mentee Committee who have put together a great program in 2024. The two-tiered program is working, and our MM games are garnering a lot of support and attendance. Feel free to offer your constructive advice to any member of the board or MM committee.

TBA has announced that beginning this month there will be an open game on the first Saturday of each month and an Eight is Enough game on the third Saturday of each month. There are no games planned for other Saturdays at this time.

See you at the table, and looking forward to 2025!

Ann

Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191 **Mentor/Mentee** program

Unit 191 held a Tier II (higher level) Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, December 10th. There were five tables. Congratulations to **Catherine Pliel and Joyce Jenzano** who finished first and **Stanley Wilson and Debbie Hoveland** who finished second. The game was preceded by examining two hands from recent games at TBA in which declarer had to establish dummy's long suit by ruffing in his hand. Once established, that suit provided discards for declarer's losers. **Michael Lavine** posted comments on the website about several hands from the game.

The Unit held a Tier I game on Tuesday, December 17, the third Tuesday instead of the usual fourth, to avoid conflict with the following holiday week. There were 9.5 tables. Congratulations to **Sylvia Robinson and Michael Lavine**, first North/South, and **Stewart Johnson and Catherine Pleil**, first East/West. The game was preceded by a lesson from **Henry Meguid** on how to handle opponents' preemptive bids. Michael Lavine wrote comments on several hands from the game.

As always, you can find handouts from the lessons and discussions from the mentors by going to the **Unit 191** web site, following the link to **Mentoring Program** webpage, and looking at the **Learning** section there.

Tier I games are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM, preceded by a half-hour lesson from Henry Meguid starting at 12:15. Tier II games are held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM, preceded by a half-hour lesson beginning at 9:15. 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 mentors' fees.

If you or your partner are unable to attend a particular M/M game, please let us know in advance so we can find someone to take your place — either a mentor or mentee who would not otherwise have a partner. It's also a courtesy to your regular MM partner; no one likes to be stood up when they're expecting to play. Email Michael Lavine, mlavine@umass.edu, or any other member of the mentoring committee. (continued)

Finally, we encourage MM pairs to play in the Eight is Enough team game on the third Saturday of each month running from 10 AM to approximately 1 PM. If you and your MM partner would like to play, you can either form a team on your own or email Michael Lavine, mlavine@umass.edu, who will look for another pair to join with you to form a team.

To summarize:

1. We are running a **two-tiered** program this year. See the web site 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. There is no limitation on pairs who want to join the Tier II game.
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.
5. **Eight is Enough** is another good opportunity for MM pairs to play together.



When making your new year's resolutions—please consider the following:

(From an article written by Randy Joyce for the Alert 10 years ago)

1. I resolve to understand that my partner is not perfect and is trying to do his/her best on each and every hand. I will refrain from hurtful remarks and comments when things go awry.
2. I resolve to greet each new table with a warm "Hello" and a "How are you doing?" even if we have just gone set 1100 on the previous board.
3. I resolve to take a little extra time when I see the dummy and make a plan about what I should be doing on a particular hand. This applies to Defense as well as Offense.
4. I resolve to try to not make bids that have not been discussed or are outside of our partnership agreements. I especially resolve to not practice

nor preface any peculiar bid or play with a protracted huddle.

5. I resolve to compliment my opponents for a really good play and not just attribute it to pure blind dumb luck.
6. I resolve to play at a pace that is neither overly hasty nor intolerably slow. If I have a problem and need to think on a hand, I will assume that my partner takes no undue inference from the hesitation.
7. I resolve to not make “Frowny” faces if the dummy that I see does not seem to agree with the bids that my partner makes.
8. I resolve to compliment my partner for a thoughtfully played hand or an imaginative defense. I will not compliment partner in a gloating tone when the opponents went awry and handed us a top board, or we bid a grand slam on 2 finesses and they both worked.
9. I resolve to not give helpful hints to the opponents unless they expressly ask for them. I will not tell them that they should play different methods to handle the problem that they just encountered.
10. I resolve to pick up my trash at each table.

In addition to the above resolutions, I wish to add the following:

1. Make an effort to do just one tidying-up chore after each game—push in your

chair, put your pencil away, and pick up your trash.

2. Take a second to thank the director or manager of the game—they give their time to provide all unit members the opportunity to play bridge several times a week.
3. Plan to volunteer—the unit needs help at the tournaments, special games and events during the year.
4. Resolve to play more face to face bridge!!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 17-19 Pinehurst Sectional

January 30-February 2—Raleigh
Sectional

**Unit Championship Games—
Monday, January 6th—12:30
and Friday, January 24th—
12:30 at Triangle Bridge
Academy**

**Eight is Enough
Saturday, January 25th—
10:00—TBA**

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12:30 PM Junior Fund Open	2 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	3 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	4 10:00 AM Stratified Open Game
5	6 12:30 PM Unit Cham- pionship	7 1:00-4:00 Nuplicate Barometer	8 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	9 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	10 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	11 NO GAME
12	13 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	14 M/MT2 9:15 Lesson 10:00 Game	15 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	16 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	17 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	18 10:00 AM 8 Is Enough
19	20 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	21 1:00-4:00 Nuplicate Barometer	22 12:30 Stratified Open Game	23 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	24 12:30 PM Unit Cham- pionship	25 NO GAME
26	27 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	28 M/MT1 12:15 Lesson No Nuplicate	29 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	30 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	31 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	

HAND VISUALIZATION

Written by **Ian Cloudsdale**

North/South vulnerable

North holds:

Spades—9432

Hearts—9862

Diamonds—AK

Clubs - Q73

South holds:

Spades—JT5

Hearts—AK74

Diamonds - QJ5

Clubs—AKJ

West deals and the bidding is :

W	N	S	E
Pass	pass	1C	pass
1 S	Double	pass	3 H
Pass	4 H	pass	pass

Not a good game, but who wouldn't bid it? You are looking at 3 potential spade losers, and must lose at least one heart. West leads the ten of diamonds. How do you rate your chances now?

Plan your play. The hint is in the title. Answers below.

Answer:

Your chances just went up! When dummy comes down, you can count 7 spades. Assuming West overcalled with a 5 card suit, East can only have one spade. Which card is it?

If West held Spades AKxxx or KQxxx, they surely would have led an honor, so you can hopefully place West with the AQ876 in spades and East with the bare King of spades. The opponents can only take 2 spade tricks!!

Take 2 rounds of hearts, and give up the heart. Here's the full layout:

NORTH

Spades—9432

Hearts—9862

Diamonds -AK

Clubs—Q73

WEST

Spades—AQ876

Hearts—Q3

Diamonds—T98

Clubs—T82

EAST

Spades—K

Hearts—JT5

Diamonds—76432

Clubs—9654

SOUTH

Spades—JT5

Hearts—AK74

Diamonds—QJ5

Clubs—AKJ

Congratulations to Unit 191 members who have attained a new ACBL rank:

Neil Evans—Junior Master

Seth Tulsy—Junior Master

Gene Mills—Regional Master

**Suzie Goldberg—Diamond
Life Master**

The Bright Leaf Alert is the official newsletter of Unit 191. If you have ideas, suggestions, interesting hands, personal stories or input of any sort, please contact Barbara Martin, editor @ barbaramartin-duke@gmail.com. Information from other Unit 191 clubs is welcome.

May this New Year be the chapter where all your dreams come to life—especially at the bridge table.