

UNIT BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNIT 191

DECEMBER 2016

UNIT 191 DECEMBER EVENTS

December is an exciting time in our unit—please mark your calendars for the following events and plan to celebrate the season with your fellow bridge players. All details of each event may be found elsewhere in this issue of the Alert.

December 3— **Roxboro Bridge Club** Holiday Game

December 4— Holiday Gala—Unit 191

December 8— Holiday Party at **Triangle Bridge**

December 9— **Tarheel Bridge** club hosts a holiday party

December 12— Celebration at **The Bridge Academy**

December 14— **Fearrington Bridge Club** Holiday game

December 15— **Governor's Club Bridge Club** Holiday Game

December 16— The **Schwenkes** have a party at the **Durham Chapel Hill Bridge Club**

December 21— Come celebrate with the **Durham Bridge Club**

And if that is not enough celebrating, plan to play in the special **Midnight in Moscow** party on **December 31** at Triangle.



BE SCENT-SITIVE!

Some people have an extreme sensitivity to fragrances (colognes and perfumes). Many ACBL clubs, units and districts have adopted policies that prohibit players from wearing fragrances. The ACBL has not issued an official policy on the matter, preferring instead to appeal to the goodwill of its members to refrain from using fragrances.

Because duplicate bridge requires players to be in close proximity to each other, individuals who suffer from fragrance-related reactions cannot avoid those who are wearing them. Among the commonly reported symptoms are intense headaches (indeed, fragrances can frequently be a trigger for migraine sufferers) or breathing related problems. For these individuals, the issue is much more serious than disliking a particular smell—it's a real health problem.

The ACBL asks everyone to give this issue the consideration it deserves. Please, if you're going to play in a club or a tournament, don't wear cologne, perfume or scented lotions.

(Reprinted with permission from the ACBL)

Please keep this in mind when you play bridge, especially at the holiday gala, when it's customary to use perfume or cologne when getting dressed in holiday finery.

STOP IT!

By Randy Joyce

If you have read the ACBL Bridge Bulletin for October and November, you will see that there is a hue and cry to rid the bidding box of the misunderstood Stop Card. In my humble opinion, this has been too long coming and should have been abolished many years ago. It's sort of like the 2nd Amendment: the original intent and the modern use and interpretation are vastly different.

Back in the old days, BBB (Before Bidding Boxes), you announced your bids verbally at the table. If you are new to duplicate but are used to playing rubber bridge or party bridge, this quaint tradition is still used in those venues. Bidding Boxes have two things going for them over verbal bidding. Point #1 is that you have a record of the bids laying in front of everyone. You can look at the auction without anyone having to remember it. This leads to fewer mistakes about declarer, opening leads, etc. Point #2 is often forgotten but is just as important, if not more so. Verbal bidding leads to inflections which could make the same bid, say Double, have two different meanings. A stern DOUBLE might mean, "This is for penalties," while a dulcet tone might signify take out or indecision. Surprising me and Kay, people loved bidding boxes when they were first introduced at clubs and took to them like ducks to water.

The Stop Card was originally intended to be used as a tool to give *the player in the next position* a chance to collect his wits and decide what to do after an unexpected 4 Diamond bid or any preempt. It is not as difficult to bid over a 1 Club bid as it is to bid over 3 Spades. The "powers that be" felt (and still do) that when a preempt occurs, it is fairer to everyone for there to be a 10-second break "built in" to allow extra time for thinking. When we used verbal bidding, it was customary for the preemptor to say "Skip Bid, please wait," and the next player was obliged to stop for about ten seconds. With the advent of the Stop Card, the intent was the same, but lack of knowledge about intent has meant that use has evolved into a tool to alert partner that a jump bid was being made. (Sometimes the jump bidder used the stop card even when a jump bid was not made. Many think this is usually denoting a hand that is not quite a preempt, but not quite a sound overcall either.)

The biggest misuse, however, of the Stop card is by the opponents. As "*the next person to bid*" (opponent), you are obliged to Stop and consider your hand when your RHO is skipping the bidding (whether he uses the "Stop card" or not). If you hold a bad hand and pass quickly, this conveys unauthorized information. A very, very slow pass shows values but not quite enough to bid. If opponents are reminded about the speed with which they pass or bid (Slow or quick), they usually answer, "Oh, I'm sorry" and think that this absolves the damage which has been done. In your heart, you know that this scenario will repeat itself again and again, often because the quick or slow bidders don't even understand the process completely.

If you use the Stop Card on one preemptive action, you are supposed to use it on every skip bid. Some people pick and choose when to use the Stop Card. They will use it on hands where they open a preempt, but will neglect to do so when they are making a preempt over their RHO's opening bid. One of the reasons that many more experienced players do not use the stop card at all is because using it every time a skip bid is made is cumbersome and unnecessary while slowing down the game. For example, the intent to give extra time to think is necessary when a preempt is made, but not on a skip after Stayman, when the opponent has already passed twice. Using it when the opponents have been silent for 2-3 rounds slows the game down unnecessarily.

Pretty much what I am trying to get across in this article is that Active Ethics should occur at all times during a session of bridge. If you want to be a “rule follower” which we have all learned is fair, you pause for ten seconds after a skip bid is made, with or without use of a Stop Card.

If you have a problem over RHO’s 3 Club bid, you should take as much time as you need. However, the onus is now on partner to bid his hand ethically without using the information that you had a distinct problem. For example, the bidding goes 2 Spades on your left, a BIT (Break in Tempo) by your partner and a Pass, followed by a pass on your right. If you choose to Double holding x Qxxx, Kxxx, Kxxx, you would be taking advantage of partner’s problem. Once partner breaks tempo, all are alerted to the fact that he has something that didn’t quite fit in with their bidding methods. When you keep the bidding alive with an 8-count, you use that information (gained illegally) to try to better your position on the board.

If partner passed smoothly, you could make whatever crazy bid you wanted. Even doubling with an 8-point hand! But when partner’s often legitimate problem causes a “Break in Tempo,” you are “supposed to bend over backwards” to make normal bids: in other words, a double should be a full opening bid with shortness in the preempt and support for the other three suits. Pristine---not shaded, as here.

I personally do not use the Stop Card because the rules are very clear about next to bid waiting an appropriate amount of time, whether the stop card is used or not. I agree with the letter writers in the Bulletin that the bad outweighs the good when the Stop Card is used. However, for all its flaws, the Stop Card has been around a long time, and it will probably continue to be used/misused for the immediate future.

Let’s try to use it in a responsible manner in Unit 191, for its intended use was to allow the next (and consequently all) at the table extra time to consider their actions, in light of unusual developments.

New Bridge Classes

Friends,

Beginning January 10, I will be teaching Play of the Hand using the ACBL text, *Play of the Hand in the 21st Century* at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill on Tuesdays from 9:30-noon. This class is 9 weeks and costs \$125. Contact the Seymour Center at 919-968-2070 to register. You do not need a partner to take the class.

I am also offering an introduction or review of the Grant/Rodwell 2 *Over 1 Game Force* system on Friday mornings at Triangle from 9:30-11:30 beginning January 6. This is an 8 week class and costs \$125. Although the text is only 4 chapters, the class will include lots of application as well as additional practice with defense and common conventions. Please call me at 919-294-4138 to register or send me an email.

Both texts may be ordered online through Baron Barclay or Amazon.com

Feel free to forward this information to anyone who might be interested in bridge classes.

As always, thank you for your continued interest and support.

Valerie Roberts

The Bridge Academy



Have fun, Play better

www.bridgeacademync.com

2017 New Year's Bridge Extravaganza!

0-500 FUTURE LIFE MASTERS SECTIONAL January 6-8, 2017

2634 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd, Suite 102
Durham, NC 27707

Friday, January 6

10:00 am Stratified FLM Pairs
10:00 am Stratified 0-50 Pairs
2:30 pm Mini-lesson
3:00 pm Stratified FLM Pairs
3:00 pm Stratified 0-50 Pairs

Saturday, January 7

10:00 am Stratified FLM Pairs
10:00 am Stratified 0-50 Pairs
2:30 pm Mini-lesson
3:00 pm Stratified FLM Pairs
3:00 pm Stratified 0-50 Pairs

Sunday, January 8

10:00 am Stratified Swiss Teams
Play through with lunch included

Stratification

FLM: A: 300-500 B: 100-300 C: 0-100 - 0-50 Pairs: 20-50; 10-20; 0-10

Partnership Chairperson

Nancy Crow – (919) 933-4884
nancykcrow@gmail.com

Tournament Chair

Henry Meguid – (919) 724-6239
henry@bridgeacademync.com

***Nearby Lodging:** La Quinta Inn & Suites
4414 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC
27707. (919) 401-9660*

***Directions:** The Bridge Academy is located in
The M&F Bank Corporate Office Building .
Go to www.bridgeacademync.com*

DEADLINE
DECEMBER 5TH



2016 Holiday Party

December 12, 2016

Starting at 11:30

Guest Speaker

World Champion

Rose Meltzer

Please RSVP at
rsvp@bridgeacademync.com



ENJOY THE SEASON AT OUR
CLUBS' HOLIDAY PARTIES!

PLAY GOOD BRIDGE, EAT
GREAT FOOD AND SHARE THE
SPIRIT WITH FELLOW BRIDGE
PLAYERS!

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BRIDGE CLUB

12/16 HOLIDAY PARTY AND STAC
GAME:

COME EARLY. Feel free to bring a fa-
vorite dish to share if you wish.



Tar Heel Bridge Club Holiday Pot Luck

Friday, Dec 9

Lunch at 11:30 am

Game at Noon

**Spiral Ham, Home-made Bread,
Potato Salad**

Bring your favorite dish to share!

John Torrey
Director

5110 Revere Rd, Durham
919-405-2016

Triangle Bridge will continue to provide opportunities for advancing players in 2017.

Starting Thursday, January 5th at 12:30pm a new stratified Intermediate game for 0-1000 players will be run concurrent with the open game.

Chris's next topic will be "**Trouble with Doubles**" on Thursday mornings from 10am – 11:30am starting on January 5th and running for 6 classes (Jan 5th, 12th and 19th, Feb 2nd, 9th and 16th). The class will include the most common doubles – take out, negative, penalty, balancing, lead directing, responsive, reopening and support doubles – as well as some you've probably not heard of before.

When you sign up for the whole class \$129, should you miss a class, you will receive the handouts and notes taken from that class along with an opportunity to review the notes and handouts with Tammy and/or Chris. Sometimes, when enough attendance warrants, a make-up class is held. You may drop in for \$25/session.

This class is for players of all abilities but due to the volume of material, the pace will be crisp thus is not designed for players who are new to bridge. To sign up, please contact:

tammy26bridge@aol.com

Happy Holidays and safe travels,

Tammy and Chris

BARBARA SEAGRAM

Returns To The Bridge Academy



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

Defensive Strategy & Signals

9 - noon Seminar
Lunch
1pm Stratified Open Pairs

\$85.00
Includes
Lunch & Game

*Please RSVP at
rsvp@bridgeacademync.com*

**DEADLINE
JANUARY 31**

Make check payable to The Bridge Academy



LEARN BRIDGE

in 2017

BRIDGE BASICS 1 – An Introduction to Bridge

Five classes for beginners and nearly beginners with a focus on bidding, playing, and defense. Topics include bidding/responses for no trump, major suits, minor suits and two popular conventions – Stayman and transfers. Text book, Bridge Basics 1 by Audrey Grant, is included in the course fee. Fees: \$65 – Cary residents; \$84 – non-residents. Class dates: Jan 13 – Feb 10.

BRIDGE BASICS 2 -- Competitive Bidding

Four classes with the focus on hand evaluation and competitive bidding situations. Topics include preemptive opening bids, overcalls and advances, takeout doubles, and the competitive auction. Text book by Audrey Grant is included in the course fee. Fees: \$52 – Cary residents; \$69 – non-residents. Class dates: Feb 17 – Mar 24 (no class Feb 24, Mar 3).

TWO OVER ONE Game Force

One of the most popular bidding systems in the US. Four classes explore the modification of a forcing 1 No Trump bid to help you arrive at the best game contract. Hands on practice explores 2/1 bidding, forcing versus non-forcing 1 No Trump, limit raises and rebids by opener and responder. The Two over One text book by Grant/Rodwell is included in the course fee. Fees: \$57 – Cary residents; \$74 – non-residents. Class dates: Mar 31 – Apr 28 (no class Apr 14).

Betsy R. Mebane, Instructor

Herb Young Community Center Cary, NC 919-460-4965





DCBC **FRIDAY** GAMES FOR DECEMBER

12/2 LOCAL CHARITY GAME IN SUPPORT OF CHATHAM COUNTY CORA FOOD PANTRY

12/9 UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

12/16 HOLIDAY PARTY AND STAC GAME: **COME EARLY.** Feel free to bring a favorite dish to share if you wish.

12/23 NO GAME HAVE A WONDERFUL **CHRISTMAS**

12/30 CLUB GAME

Remember all **Friday** DCBC games start at 12:30

Paul and Ruth Ann

Triangle Bridge Schedule

December 2016							
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
ACBL Charity					1	2	3
GNT Swiss							
D7 - Local Charity							Open / Play & Review
Membership					DC161200 7AOpen / 0-300 Play&Revi ew	Open / 0 -50	
STAC			Wed, Sat 9:30am				
Unit Game &	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holiday Parties		Afternoon:		Morning	Thurs 12:30pm		Open / Play & Review
D7 Fund / Foundation		After- noon	Open / 0- 500	After- noon	L612191C Open / 0- 300	Open / 0 -50	
		Evening	Play&Rev iew	Swiss	Play&Revi ew		
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				Morning			Open / Play & Review
	8 is Enough 2:00pm	After- noon	Open / 0- 500	After- noon	Open / 0- 300	Open / 0 -50	
		Swiss	Play&Rev iew	Evening	Play&Revi ew		
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
American Red Cross --				L612191 D Morn- ing			Open / Play & Review
Hurricane Matthew		After- noon	Open / 0- 500	After- noon	Open / 0- 300	Open / 0 -50	
		Evening	Play&Rev iew	Swiss	Play&Revi ew		
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				Morning			Open / Play & Review
Have a Merry Christmas		After- noon	Open / 0- 500	After- noon	Open / 0- 300	Open / 0 -50	1pm Pot Luck, Af- ternoon Game 1:30pm
		Swiss	Play&Rev iew	Evening	Play&Revi ew		

Game Times

Morning: Wed, Sat 9:30am

Afternoon: Mon, Tues, Thurs 12:30pm

Wed 1:00pm

Fri 12:00pm * Please Note: NEW TIME

Evening: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 7:00pm

The background of the entire page is a collage of various playing cards, including the Ace of Spades, King of Hearts, Queen of Diamonds, and Jack of Clubs, among others, scattered across the surface.

MIDNITE IN MOSCOW

New Year's Eve Bridge Party

**Triangle Bridge Club
5110 Revere Road
Durham NC
(919-405-2016)**

\$10.00/person

**0-50 game with Valerie Roberts
(ACBL membership not required)**

Or

Open Game with John Torrey

**1PM (Midnight in Moscow) Potluck Lunch
1:30 Bridge starts**

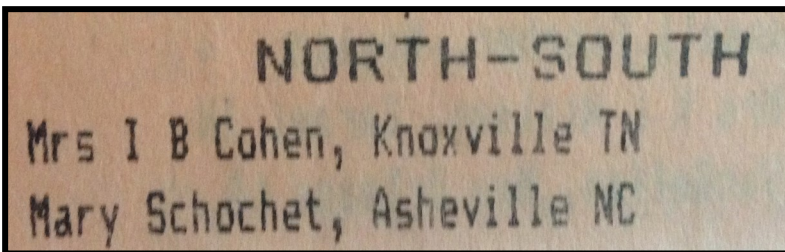
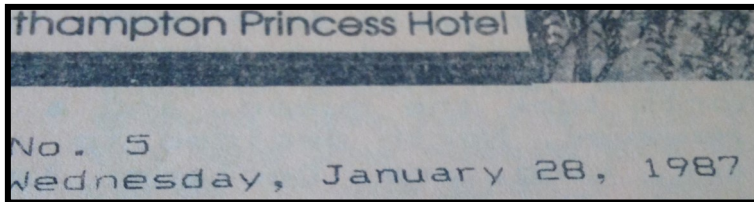
**Spriral Ham Provided
Sides, Salads, Desserts, Holiday Treats Welcome
NO Alcoholic Beverages please.**

**Linda Harris will hostess the luncheon
Contact Linda with contributions to potluck
Kitchen volunteers please report to Linda
lharris166@nc.rr.com**

MARY SCHOCHET

Our unit is saddened to learn of the passing of **Mary Schochet**. Please go to the website where Ed has posted an obituary for Mary. There is a memorial for Mary at 4:00PM on December 3, at The Cedars.

I have heard many people tell stories about Mary and all have remembered her fondly. I will share the following:



Phil Erlenbach and his wife attended this regional and had done well, so Phil saved the bulletin. He recently located it and noticed this result. He took it to bridge recently and showed Mary, but sadly, her vision was not good enough for her to read it, although he explained it to her. She could only remember that she and her friend took a cruise to Bermuda each year for the regional tournament held there.

Incidentally, Mary and her partner were first N/S and Phil and his wife were first E/W.

We will remember Mary warmly welcoming everyone to her table and always a kind word when you moved on.

We shall miss you, Mary.



UNIT 191 BRIDGE PLAYERS IN SPAIN

Paul and Ruth Ann Schwenke recently returned from a cruise on the Oosterdam. Before they left, they found out **Richard Cole, and Warren and Sherry Wogan** would be in Malaga at the same time, so they arranged to have lunch with them. They then bumped into the **Hansells**, who were on the Eurodam that was also in port on November 8.



HAPPY FIRST ANNI- VERSARY!

Our first year of running Triangle Bridge has been full of many challenges and opportunities to create an environment for players to enjoy the game along with friendly competition. We appreciate all of your patience and support. It was fun to celebrate with you the accomplishments to date at our anniversary lunch on October 4th.

Prizes were awarded to the winners and raffle drawings were made giving free plays to those who won. A special prize was given to both **Kathy Newman** and **Valerie Roberts** who were # 1 and 2 for the "Attendance Award" for the year, having played the most games at Triangle Bridge. All enjoyed the special lunch. We will continue to make improvements and endeavor to promote friendly competition at its best.

Tammy and Chris





Durham Bridge Club **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Wednesday, Dec 21

Special Holiday Goodies

at 9 am

Game at 9:30 am

5110 Revere Rd, Durham
919-405-2016

NEW 0 - 1000 Game!

Thursdays at 12:30 pm

Begins Jan 5, 2017

DREAM

of stepping up your
game?



Want more of a challenge?

BUT don't what to play with the SHARKS!



THIS Game is for YOU!

Triangle Bridge
5110 Revere Rd, Durham
919-405-2016

Much appreciation to The



for the 1st Place Prize,

and to Unit 191 and the Unit Clubs for Free Plays for the remaining prizes!

2016 Bright Leaf Unit 191 Championship Winners

**1st - Elaine Landow/Craig Robinson—
74.11% -Strata A—DCHBC, Nov.18th**

**2nd—Kay Joyce/Brian Crossley—69.05%
- Strata A—TBA, Nov. 14th**

**3rd—Helen Starr/ Shirley Hanson—
68.92% - Strata C—RBC, Nov. 14th**

**4th—Grada Arble/ Steohen Barrett—
66.19% - Strata C—TBA, Nov, 16th**



Craig Robinson and Elaine Landow

**5th—Marc/Suzanne Goldberg— 64.96%%
- Strata B—TBA, Nov. 14th**

**6th—J. Timothy Laverty, JR/ Tony Litten—64.59% - Strata B—
DCHBC, Nov. 18th**

**7th—Phyllis Fuller/Leonard Beeghley—64.20% - Strata C— TBA,
Nov. 14th**

**Special thanks to Ed Fuller for organizing this
event and making all the arrangements!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join Our Annual Fun Game - Wait Wait...Let Me Guess!

Send three fun facts about yourself, two true and one false and/or a photo of your younger self

2016 Holiday Party

December 12, 2016

Starting at 11:30

Guest Speaker

World Champion

Rose Meltzer

Please RSVP at
rsvp@bridgeacademync.com



Phylliss Woody
and **Carole Crotty**,
Partnership Chair;
at the partnership
desk;

Henry Meguid,
Director in
Charge;

Beautiful floral
arrangement do-
nated by **Dave**
Schreiber;

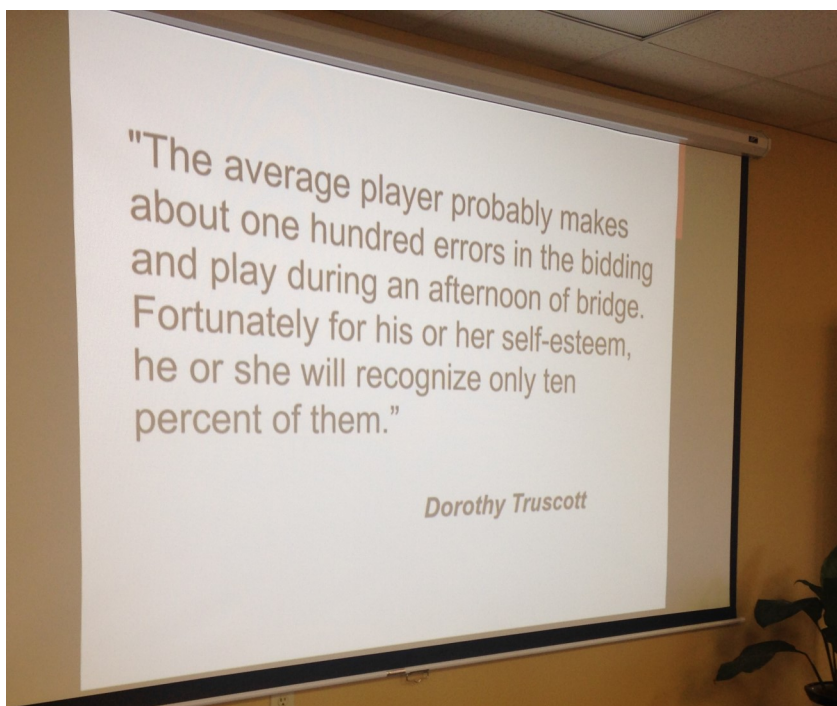
Kay Joyce, giving
a lesson on Fri-
day'

Melanie Riva,
Hospitality Chair-
man





Randy Joyce presenting a lesson at the tournament;
Hugon Karwowski, co-chair of the tournament and busy in the kitchen;
Meyer Leiberman and Beverly Barg, overall winners Saturday morning;
Sandra Irby, getting ready to make a bid;
 Flowers—donated by **Dave Schreiber**;



Quote to remember;

Ira Mueller concentrates on counting her points;

Phil Erlenbach and Hugon Karwowski, caddies (Would you actually trust these two to get your boards to the right table?)



A huge thank you to all those who participated in the FLM tournament, the members who made monetary donations, and to those who brought delicious food. Special thanks to **Henry Meguid** for the use of The Bridge Academy and for directing; **Deanna Larus**, assistant director; **Hugon Karwowski**, who helped in the kitchen and was our errand person; **Ann Vaughn**, always there to do what needs to be done; **Phylliss Woody** for being the designated partner; **Carole Crotty**, Partnership Chair; **Phil Erlenbach** and **Hugon Karwowski**, caddies; **Diane Saulsberry**, who helped caddy and tabulate results; **Joyce Jenzano** and **Carol Meguid** for working in the kitchen; but mainly, **Melanie Riva**, Hospitality Chair, who worked tirelessly to prepare all the food and man the kitchen. There was a record 110 tables.

The tournament committee: **Hugon Karwowski**, **Phylliss Woody**, **Melanie Riva**, **Barbara Martin**

Unit 191 Membership Report

Submitted by Linda Harris

During the month of October the following occurred:

Total Membership for October 2016	October	(603)
New	2	
Transfer In	3	
Transfer Out	4	
Deceased		
Snowbird In		
Snowbird Out	1	
Future Life Masters inactive		
Future Life Masters reinstated	2	
Life Masters Unpaid	2	
Life Masters reinstated	1	



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We welcome to our Unit 191 family two (2) new ACBL member—Harry Krummel, and Ruth Willmon both of Durham. In addition three (3) players transferred in Matthew A. Bode from unit 144 and Meredith S. Person Michener from unit 128 both of Chapel Hill, and Sheri G. Spencer from unit 155 of Durham.

We bid a warm welcome to these players and look forward to having them as part of our bridge family.

Advancing in rank five (5) during the month of October were:

RANKS	OCTOBER
Club Masters	Vanessa M. Brown
	Mary Ferguson
Regional Masters	Thomas G. Walton
Bronze Masters	Susan M. McAllister
Gold Masters	James A. Cunningham

Congratulations one and all

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The Bridge Academy



ALERT

New Game Schedule

Starting January 2017

Monday*

12:30 Game

Open & 299er Pairs

Thursday

12:30 Game

Barometer 500

Wednesday*

12:30 Game

Open Pairs

Friday (DCBC)

12:30 Game

Open Pairs

Saturday

10:00 Game

499er Pairs

* Mini-lesson at noon



Happy Holidays to All!!