

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – July 2023



President's Corner:

Dear Unit Members and Friends,

The summer heat has arrived, and I hope you are considering playing duplicate bridge as part of your indoor summer plans.

We have been publicizing our Summer Sectional and hope you will be able to come play and/or support the unit's efforts for this event, July 6th – July 9th at the Triangle Bridge Academy. Additional information regarding game stratifications and partnership needs can be found in the flyer, attached below. Cash and food donations are helpful, and the board appreciates the generosity of our unit members. Thank you!

Make note that Triangle Bridge Academy will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th. TBA will hold several qualifying games for North American Pairs in July and August. Look for notification of when these games will be held in our weekly schedule. Also look for details of Patty Tucker's visit to TBA on August 19-20. She is an acclaimed bridge teacher and happens to be the 2019 ACBL Hall of Fame winner.

Our unit is supporting the 749'er game on Saturdays at TBA with the promise of a guaranteed partner. If you would like to play and need a partner for this game, email unit191brightleaf@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer to be a sometime guaranteed partner, please email as well. The unit is paying the game entry fee for the guaranteed partner.

See you at the table,
Ann

Quote of the month: "It's a game of a million inferences. There are a lot of things to draw inferences from — cards played and not played..... Bridge is about weighing gain/loss ratios. You're doing calculations all the time."

Warren Buffett

Funny quote of the month: “Bridge is like relationships. In the beginning its all hearts and diamonds. By the end you are looking for a club and a spade.”

HAPPY 4th of JULY



Volunteers are needed for the Unit 191 Summer Sectional Tournament
July 6 - 9.

We need people to help with Greeting, Kitchen/Hospitality Setup and Cleanup, and Sunday Lunch Ticket Sales. If you volunteer, you will still be able to play in that session. We need volunteers for all sessions.

We also encourage your donations to help with our Hospitality expenses - either cash donations or bring a dish. An envelope for cash donations will circulate at most games between now and the tournament.

You can find the SignUp sheet for volunteers on the table below the bulletin board at the Triangle Bridge Academy, or email ira.d.mueller@gmail.com (Ira Mueller) or mnewman0529@gmail.com (Mary Newman) with your availability.

Please plan on playing, donating and/or volunteering to help make this tournament a success. Thank you!

www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf

Unit 191

SUMMER SECTIONAL

JULY 6-9, 2023 at TRIANGLE BRIDGE ACADEMY
2634 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD DURHAM, NC
(919) 808-8068

THURSDAY, JULY 6
7:00 PM
OPEN & 749'ER SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, JULY 7
10 AM & *2:30 PM
OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS

SATURDAY, JULY 8
10 AM & *2:30 PM
A/X, B/C/D & 749'er Pairs

SUNDAY, JULY 9
10 AM & TBD
OPEN & 749'ER SWISS TEAMS

*BOTH 2:30 PM GAMES ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ARE
REGIONALLY RATED FOR SILVER POINTS

SWISS TEAMS ON SUNDAY INCLUDES PLAY THROUGH WITH
LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
STRATIFICATION BASED ON TEAM MP AVERAGE

Open Stratification:
0-1000, 1000-3000, 3000+
A/X 0-5000, 5000+
B/C/D 0-1250, 1250-2000, 2000-3000

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

ENTRY FEE: \$12/PLAYER/GAME

TOURNAMENT CHAIRMEN:

MARY NEWMAN mnewman0529@gmail.com (919) 724-3363
IRA MUELLER ira.d.mueller@gmail.com (919) 602-1313

PARTNERSHIIP CHAIRMEN:

DEANNA LARUS deanna@elarus.com (919) 656-9666

NEARBY LODGING

LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES
4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC
(919) 484 - 1422 \$105/ NIGHT (inlucdes breakfast)
Group Rate is named : Bridge Unit 191 Summer Sectional



ALL ACBL PROTOCOLS WILL BE FOLLOWED.

OVERCALLING
BY MATTHIAS HUBERSCHWILLER
[Click here](#) for this month's VuBridge Quiz

Game Schedule

Triangle Bridge Academy (New schedule effective June 1)

Monday

9:00 am - 11:00 am - Play and Learn online.

(Registration required at www.bridgeacademync.com)

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Wine & Cheese Social Bridge

(Registration required at www.bridgeacademync.com)

Tuesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Supervised Newcomers Duplicate game

CLOSED JULY 4

Wednesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

10:00 am - 499er* pairs with 30 minutes postmortem hand analysis

Guaranteed partner

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Scheduled classes

Thursday - the club is closed.

Friday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

1:30-3:30 pm - Supervised Newcomers Duplicate game.

Guaranteed partner

Saturday

9:30 am - Mini-lesson

10:00 am - 749er pairs

(reservation required on www.bridgeacademync.com)

Guaranteed partner

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

Triangle Bridge Club

Online BBO open games: Monday and Wednesdays 7:00 pm.

Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee game:

No games in July

Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

July 6-9: Durham Sectional

July 27-30: Flat Rock Open Sectional and NLM Regional

August 11-13: Winston-Salem Sectional

August 28-September 3: Charlotte Regional

**Why Should You Play in Bridge Tournaments?
Marc Goldberg**

Unit 191 members are very fortunate to have a wide array of bridge tournaments available to play in each year. Our Unit typically has three **Sectional** tournaments each year, and our neighbors in Raleigh have two. Plus, there are other **Sectional** tournaments within an hour or so drive (Greensboro, Pinehurst, Winston-Salem, Wilmington). Raleigh has a **Regional** tournament every other year, and there are several other **Regionals** close by (Charlotte, Richmond, and others).

Playing bridge at the Club level is fun and rewarding. We have many opportunities for club play in our area, so why go to the trouble and expense of playing in a **Sectional**, **Regional**, or even a **National** level tournament? Personally, I like playing in tournaments, and if you are not a tournament aficionado, I hope this article might change your mind.

For newer players, tournament play is required for their journey to Life Master rank. ACBL requires players to have certain numbers of Black, Silver, Red, and Gold points to earn that rank. Red and Gold points are awarded at **Regional** tournaments, and Silver points are awarded at **Sectional** tournaments (and the occasional STaC games- **Sectional** Tournament at Clubs). Black points are awarded at club games (both face to face and online). The road to Life Master may seem daunting at first, but it is worth the trip. Tournaments offer an array of games such as Gold Rush Pairs, Gold Rush Teams, and other limited point games. Some **Sectional** tournaments are devoted entirely to Intermediate/Newcomer players (0-750 MP). Newer players can be competitive in acquiring the points they need at these events. I didn't mean to leave out Platinum points. These points are only awarded at the top competitive level at **National** tournaments. They may be out of reach for most of us, but if you are so inclined to try, go for it.

So what about players who no longer "need" Gold and Silver points? Not so fast- you may actually still need more Gold points at some point in the future. When you review the point requirements for the various ACBL ranks, the color points required for Life Master will carry you all the way through Bronze (750 MP), Silver (1000 MP), Ruby (1500 MP), and Gold Life Master (2500 MP). After Life Master, all you need to achieve these higher ranks is additional Black points which you can earn at club games. In the ranks above Gold Life Master- Sapphire (3500 MP), Diamond (5000 MP), Emerald (7500 MP), and Platinum (10,000 MP), ACBL requires that 10% of the points must be Gold. Some of those ranks may seem a long way off, but it is a lot easier to get the Gold points you need for future ranks by attending **Regional** tournaments when you can still play in a lower stratum. Believe me, it is much more difficult to win an event when

the teams you are competing against contain professional bridge players and Grand Life Masters. Get your Gold points early.

But this is important- tournaments are much more than just acquiring points. They expand your bridge experience and skills in many ways. Here are a few examples.

Tournaments give you the opportunity to play against a different set of opponents than the regular club games. Playing at the club is fun, and it is nice to play with people you know. But at the club, you get to know how people play and what their game is like. “Joe” is conservative and solid- he always has his bid. “Jane” will always bid one more if you push her. “Jill” will (pick one) always/never double me if I make an adventurous bid. Familiar opponents affect how you play. At a tournament, you may not know your opponents or their style, and that makes you focus more intently on you and your partner just playing your game.

Sometimes at a tournament, you get to play against a well-known bridge personality. It can be very intimidating when you move to the next table and Jeff Meckstroth and his client are your opponents. **Gulp!** Say hello and just play your game. As an experienced player once told me, “The pros must take finesse just like you do. Sometimes they work and sometimes they don’t.” Pros aren’t bridge gods; they just make fewer mistakes than us mere mortals. Concentrate on your game and minimize your mistakes.

Occasionally, you play against opponents who use conventions that you are unfamiliar with. They may be unusual or obscure. You may not know what they mean or how to play against them. How do you interfere when a precision bidder opens 1C? What do you do when Opener’s 2D bid is alerted as mini-Roman? Sandwich No-trump? Leaping Michaels? Old-style Goren? And there are many other “way out there” conventions that you may be exposed to. Tournament play gives you a chance to learn new things. Playing against unusual conventions will help you improve your bidding and your defensive strategy.

Regional tournaments normally offer a free bridge lesson between the morning and afternoon sessions. These are presented by nationally known bridge players, teachers, and lecturers. I learn something new and valuable every time I attend one. This is a great time to grab a sandwich (tournament locations usually have a food concession available) and listen to the daily presentation. You will learn a lot, and it will help clear your mind before the afternoon bridge game begins.

The bridge community is a fun group of people. Most tournaments have some social aspect in the schedule, and it is fun to chat with some new friends about their bridge experiences and their lives. Your Unit 191 friends are a tight community, as well, and they will include you at dinner or the lounge after a grueling day at the tables. And don’t forget the “5 degrees of separation”- your tournament opponent may very well be your distant cousin, so it is a great time to reconnect. (True story- Suzie and I recently played at the Richmond Regional. A woman came up to her and said, “You look very familiar. Have we met?” Long conversation later, they were friends and had carpooled our kids to pre-school together when we lived in Virginia 30 years ago. Go figure.)

Now, you have a great opportunity to put these suggestions into practice. Unit 191 is sponsoring a **Sectional** tournament July 6-9. Find a partner and play bridge! Hope to see you at the table.

ACBL Unit 191 Membership Report (TOTAL MEMBERS-530)

We are saddened to announce the death of Paul Morrissette. He will be missed and we wish his family our thoughts and prayers.

Welcome new members

Margaret R Burchinal
Amy Plesser
Darlene E Williams
Michael S Allen
Victoria T Borden
Emily R Furr

Congratulations

Sandra C Elliott – New Junior Master
Neil M Khaner – New sectional Master
Larry Kupper – New Silver Master
Helen J Moon – New Silver Master
William Ingram – New Bronze Life Master

Phylliss Woody
Membership Chair
June 2023