

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT –SEPTEMBER 2023



President's Corner:

Dear Unit Members,

District 7 is sponsoring STaC (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs) games the week of September 4th– 11th. All local clubs in District 7 are eligible to participate. The Triangle Bridge Academy is offering STaC games on Monday (Labor Day), Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday (both Open and 749'er games) at its regular game times during this week. All points will be silver! Due to increased table fees for STaC games, entry fees will be \$12 per game during that week at TBA.

September is also Club International Fund Games Month which includes 63.6% sectional-rated black points for each game.

The Mentor/Mentee committee has been hard at work planning the year's program. The **Mentoring Program** tab on the unit website has been updated with a lot of great information that is useful for players of all levels. Check out "[Useful Links for Learning](#)". The kickoff event will be the F2F game on Tuesday, September 12 at TBA. Stay tuned for additional program information and dates.

Thanks to all involved in contributing to the planning of this year's MM program - Michael Lavine, Ed Fuller, Bev Craig, Barbara Bute, Maggie Lindquist, Marc Goldberg, and Henry Meguid. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee you may email BrightLeaf.Mentee@gmail.com. There are also sign-up sheets at TBA and downloadable pdfs on the unit website, which you may fill out and bring to the club, or scan and email. *See below for more information.*

We are looking forward to some upcoming events. The Triangle Bridge Academy will host Barbara Seagram on Saturday, September 23 for a

workshop/lunch/and game. You can find details below and on the TBA website. We are happy to host Barbara for her Durham visit.

Hope you're playing some bridge during these dog days of summer,

Ann

**REMOVING OPPONENT'S BIDDING SPACE
BY MATTHIAS HUBERSCHWILLER**

[Click here](#) for this month's VuBridge Quiz

Game Schedule

Triangle Bridge Academy

Monday

9:00 am -11:00 am - Play and Learn online. ([Click to register and pay](#))

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm – Wine and Cheese social Bridge ([Click to register](#))

Tuesday

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

([Click to register](#))

Wednesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Scheduled classes to be announced in September

Thursday - the club is closed.

Friday

12:30 pm - 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

Guaranteed partner email *If you need a partner email unit191brightleaf@gmail.com

(Two and a half tables are needed to hold a 749'r game)

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

Triangle Bridge Club

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

Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee game:

F2F Tuesday, September 12, 9:15am lesson, game at 10:00
Online BBO, TBDL

Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

September 15-17: [Wilmington Sectional](#)
September 22-24: [Carthage Sectional](#)
September 28-October 1: [Raleigh Sectional](#)
October 9-15: [Macon GA Regional](#)
October 19: [Winston Salem NAP Finals](#)
October 20-22: [Greensboro Sectional](#)
October 26-29: [Charlotte Sectional](#)
October 28-29: [Charlotte NAP](#)



Clues – Follow The Clues. Be a good Detective!

- When: Saturday, September 23
- Time: 9:30 - Noon
- Lunch: Noon
- Game: 1 pm - open to all unit members
- Fee: \$85 (includes materials, lunch, and game fee)
- Where: Triangle Bridge Academy
2634 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd
Durham, NC 27707



Register at www.trianglebridgeacademy.com



[Check here to register](#)



Introduction To Defense



It takes two to put the pieces together!

Who Should Attend: Advancing beginners

When: Six consecutive Fridays starting September 29 to November 3, 2023, from 9:30 -Noon

Cost: \$185 plus the cost of "Introduction to Defense" book by Eddie Kantar & Barbara Seagram" (second edition)

Deadline: September 24

Register in person or online
www.trianglebridgeacademy.com

Henry Meguid - ABTAMaster Teacher & 2018 Teacher of The Year

[Check here to register](#)

Member Spotlight – Norma Lande



Sandwiched between a brother and sister, Norma Lande was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Prior to moving to Chapel Hill, she has also lived in Marblehead, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine; San Francisco, California; and The Villages in Florida. After high school she attended Business School and was secretary for a CPA firm, then a law firm, before being rehired back to the CPA firm.

It was during her second employment that a friend introduced her to bridge. As a former Whist player, the transition to bridge

was quick and enjoyable. As typical of many of us, she was very nervous at her first duplicate game but became very interested in the game. Through the years she took lessons from many teachers including Ernest Revere who wrote a bridge book in the '60s.

Along the way, Norma traveled for 4 ½ months through 17 European countries enjoying the many sights, adventures, and people. On a boat trip from Greece to Israel she met a charming gentleman who moved to the US. They subsequently married.

Later Norma married her second love with whom she had a daughter who lives in Chapel Hill with her husband and sons— The reason Norma subsequently moved here. She is very happy in her 55+ community where all kind of card games are played in a group setting nightly.

Norma and her second husband who was a very good player and even taught some classes played a lot of bridge particularly when they lived in the Villages in Florida. She says bridge has always been a big part of her life. She now plays about three times a week with three different partners. In comparing her experiences in Marblehead, and here, she finds our bridge better and tougher. She is very glad to have our bridge community.

2023–2024 Unit 191 Mentoring Program Plan

- Schedule for Games: Two games per month – a face-to-face (F2F) game at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and an online BBO game at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month.
- Game Fee: \$11 per player for the face-to-face (F2F) games and 5 BB\$ per player for the online BBO games.
- Mentors: Mentors may or may not be Unit 191 members.
- Subsidy for Mentors: Unit 191 will subsidize \$5 of the mentor's game fee for mentors playing with a Unit 191 mentee in the F2F games. The subsidy will not apply to the online games, nor when the mentee is not a member of Unit 191.

Mentoring Pairs Game Fee in F2F games:

\$17 when mentee is a Unit 191 member

\$22 if mentee is not a Unit 191 member

- Mentees: Mentees must be non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints as of the September start date. Mentees may or may not be Unit 191 members.
- Mentees are encouraged to pay their Mentor's entry fee, if any.
- Lessons:
 - A 30-minute lesson will precede the F2F games, from 9:15 to 9:45. Lessons are on various topics, possibly including the bidding & play of an interesting hand.
- After each M/M game we will ask several Mentors to write comments on some of the interesting hands. Comments will be posted on the web site.

♠ **Want to step up your bridge game?** ♣

Are you a **Non-Life Master with fewer than 500 masterpoints** who would like to improve your bridge skills and enhance your enjoyment of the game? If so, you may be a good fit for our Mentor/Mentee program.

We will match you with an experienced bridge player for a mentor. Games for mentors and mentees to play together F2F will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month starting in **September 2023**. Day and time for the online game is not yet finalized. You can play as often as you like.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program, where you will also find a sign-up sheet.

♥ **Want to give back to bridge?** ♦

Are you a **bridge player who would like to give back?** Think of the *mentors* who have helped you improve your bridge skills and enjoyment of the game. You could be a mentor too.

We will match you with a less-experienced player as a mentee. Games for mentors and mentees to play together F2F will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month starting in **September 2023**. Day and time for the online game is not yet finalized. You can play as often as you like.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program, where you will also find a sign-up sheet.

Play every card well,

Unit 191's Mentoring Committee

Michael Lavine (Chair), mlavine@umass.edu

Barbara Bute, bpbute@gmail.com

Beverly Craig, nursebev61@icloud.com

Ed Fuller, edwin.fuller@gmail.com

Maggie Lindquist, maggie.lindquist23@gmail.com

Bidding a Difficult Slam (and Making it). Marc Goldberg

At a recent club game, North picked up a promising hand.

♠ AQJ43
♥ AKQJT6
♦ A
♣ 4

What a nice hand! A two-loser hand for those of you who use losing trick count. You may not need any help from partner to make 6 of something, and 7 is not out of the question if he has the right cards. You plan to open 2♣ until you notice that you are not the dealer. East is, and after two passes, West opens 1D before you have a chance to say anything.

So now what? Given that West opened and North has 21 HCPs, North can count on South to be somewhere between broke and not having much. South and East might have only 5-7 HCPs between them. What are North's bidding options?

- Overcalling 1♥ is a poor bid. As an overcaller, that bid is not forcing, and North would hate to see South pass. Overcalling 4♥ is also a poor bid. South will definitely pass that bid. Game will easily make, but the pair might miss a slam. Maybe just bid 6♥ and be done with it, hoping that partner has a card that will help. It would be nice to try to be a bit more scientific than that.
- North could try a Michaels bid of 2♦ and hope that North has a 3-card major to advance with. That might work, but South might bid 2♠ with only two cards. Plus, it would be much better if North is the declarer to keep all those high card points hidden.

- A takeout double may be a good way to start- see what South has to say. If East passes, South must bid (unless he has a terrific diamond stack that he wants to convert to penalty). If South bids a major, North can use 4NT to ask for key cards. Six is probably cold if South has the K♠ or A♣, and seven might make if South has both cards (all the outstanding points- not likely, but possible).

East passes and in response to the takeout double, South bids 2♣.

Now what? North still has a quandary. Double and bid 2♥ shows 17+ and South could pass (very likely). Double and bid 4♥ will probably end the bidding. Double and bid 3♥ might get the point across to South that hearts are trump and you want partner to say something. South might control bid a suit, but more likely will bid 4♥ showing his weak hand and telling North to shut up already.

If North bids 4NT over South's 2♣, South might take that as key card asking for clubs. With none, South will bid 5♦. Will 5♥ by North then be Queen asking? The bidding could get confusing. Sometimes, you just have to be bold and hope it works out. Here is how the bidding went at our table.

W	N	E	S
1♦	X	P	2♣
P	6♥	P	P
P			

East led a diamond, and the dummy came down. How should North play the hand?

♠ T97
 ♥ 872
 ♦ J76
 ♣ KJ75

♠ AQJ43
 ♥ AKQJT6
 ♦ A
 ♣ 4

Before calling for a diamond from dummy, North should make a plan. He has no diamond losers and no heart losers. He has one club loser and a possible spade loser. There is no hope for eliminating the club

loser. Since West has almost all the outstanding points, he will surely take the A♣ against a slam contract. So, the only hope to make 6♥ is to get to the dummy and finesse West for the K♠. The key to the plan is reaching the dummy.

Before revealing the winning play, I will point out that three of five tables were in 6♥, and all went down one (your author, included). Nothing is more frustrating than making a brilliant bid and then not making a sure contract. Learn from your mistakes- this one was painful and won't happen again. Play slow enough to analyze each card.

The play should have been easy.

Win the diamond lead with the A♦.

Play the A♥. It collects the 3♥, 2♥, 9♥.

Stop and think- count trump to see how the four outstanding hearts will split.

Play the K♥. It collects the 4♥, 7♥, 3♣ (darn, trump split is 3-1. I was hoping for 2-2).

Stop and think- recall that the 9♥ fell on the first heart trick, making the 8♥ in dummy a winner. (oops- I missed that step).

Play a low heart to the 8♥ to draw the last trump. Thus the key to getting to dummy.

Finesse West for the K♠ (start with the 10♠, then the 9♠, and then the 7♠) and claim when the K♠ falls.

Here are all 4 hands:

	♠ AQJ43	
	♥ AKQJT6	
	♦ A	
	♣ 4	
♠ K62		♠ 85
♥ 9		♥ 543
♦ KQ83		♦ T9542
♣ AT863		♣ Q92
	♠ T97	
	♥ 872	
	♦ J76	
	♣ KJ75	

Condolences

We are sad to report that Betsy Schopler, a regular in our club games for four decades passed away on July 26. Anyone interested in celebrating her life should contact Bobby Schopler at bobby.schopler@duke.edu or Tom Schopler at tschopler@gmail.com. The celebration will be held at Tom Schopler's house 3-8PM on Sunday 10/1/23 and will include dinner. Details to be announced to those wishing to attend.

Welcome

New members

Robert Blanchard

Jim Crescenzi

Transferred In

Douglas Bordewieck

Dixie Hapgood

Nickolas Kyser

Douglas Utter

Congratulations

Thomas Barta - Club Master

Jeff Olson - Club Master

Stanley Wilson – Club Master

Constance W Skelton – Junior Master

Jo Anne Rosenfeld - NABC Master

Gail King - Life Master

Leslie Blair – Silver Master

Phylliss Woody
Membership Chair