

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT –NOVEMBER 2023



IN THIS ISSUE

President's Corner

Dear Unit Members,

The Unit's Fall Sectional Tournament is almost here, November 9 – 12. We have structured the tournament stratifications in a way that we hope encourages Class A players as well as Novice players. Check out the flyer. Thanks to all of you who are volunteering to help and for any cash donations.

Our third F2F Mentor Mentee game will be on Tuesday, November 14. You are welcome to come and play if one of your pair has 500 or fewer masterpoints. Thank you to our Mentor Mentee committee for their continuing commitment to this important unit program. The success of this program is notable and appreciated.

Make note: There will be a 10:00 AM open stratified pairs game and a 499'er game this Saturday. The 10:00 AM game will be preceded by a mini lesson with Henry at 9:30 AM.

We are continuing to see an uptick in people returning to F2F play.

Hope to see you at the table soon.

Ann Fisher

[President's Corner:](#)
[Elections](#)
[Game Schedule](#)
[Special Congratulations](#)
[Membership Report](#)
[Mentor/Mentee Program](#)
[Number Rules](#)



Unit 191 Bright Leaf
Fall Sectional Tournament
November 9 - 12, 2023

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
 7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
 10 AM & 2:30 PM STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
 10 AM SINGLE SESSION NOVICE GAME

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
 10 AM & 2:30 PM STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
 10 AM SINGLE SESSION NOVICE GAME

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12
 10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS
 PLAY THROUGH WITH LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 10 AM SINGLE SESSION NOVICE SWISS TEAM GAME

Open Stratification:
 0-1500, 1500 - 3000, 3000+

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

Novice Stratification:
 0-5, 5-20, 20-50

awarding all silver points

ENTRY FEE: \$12/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 \$150+/NIGHT (includes breakfast)
 Book early: prices will increase as available rooms decrease



Unit 191 Elections

Voting for the Unit 191 Board of Directors is now open. Polls are open through the 22nd of November. [Click here](#) to vote online. Sign onto the members only page and click on Unit 191 Director Ballot.

A paper ballot is available from Bill Ingram [email: <ingramwg@gmail.com>, phone: (919) 452-8333] from November 1 to November 21. Paper ballots must be received by November 21st.

Deanna Larus



I have been a duplicate bridge player and member of Unit 191 since 1998 and a current board member for the past seven years. I am excited to continue volunteering on behalf of my friends in the Unit 191 bridge community as a member of the Unit board. Since my retirement from teaching at UNC, I find that playing bridge keeps me active and thinking and I hope to continue that way for many years to come. Join me in supporting our local bridge community and giving back to this stupendous game!

Ann Fisher



I have been on the unit board since 2020 and have served as president this past year. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to get to know so many of you and to support our bridge community. We have a strong board, and I would like to remain for another term. Thanks to everyone who has participated in the unit's efforts to grow F2F bridge.

Eric Hamilton



When I asked ex-partners and teammates for their recollections of my bridge successes the general reaction was to try to quickly change the subject. One said "I think there cannot be said too little on the subject"; another remembered only a double compression play that we are unable to reconstruct even with the hand records. Bringing new players into the game has always been a priority for me, so I routinely work with the unit's mentor/mentee program. I volunteer as the guaranteed partner in the unit sectionals as another way of contributing to the community, and I've served on the board since 2020.

Ian Cloudsdale



Hi, I am a retired chemist. I have been a board member for the last 3 years and treasurer for the last 2. I enjoy working with the mentor/mentee program and look forward to continuing my involvement.



November 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

9:15 am - Mini lesson

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

November 14: Unit Mentor/Mentee game

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm – Barometer game (play & discuss)

[\(Click to register\)](#)

Wednesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

Thursday

November 9: Sectional Tournament

Friday

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs

1:30-3:30 pm – 299er Duplicate game with postmortem analysis

Guaranteed partner

November 10: Sectional Tournament

Saturday

November 4

9:30 am – Mini Lesson

10:00 am - 499er pairs

Guaranteed partner

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

(Two and a half tables are needed to hold a 499'r game)

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs / club game

November 11: Sectional Tournament

November 18

10:00 am - 8 is Enough Swiss

November 25

10:00 am – Unit Mentor/Mentee game

Sunday

November 12: Sectional Tournament

Triangle Bridge Club

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

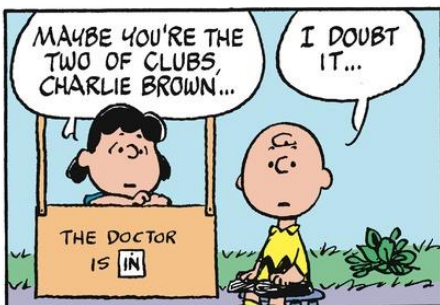
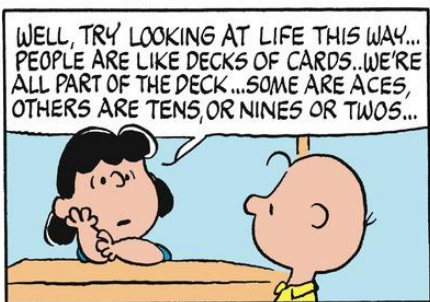
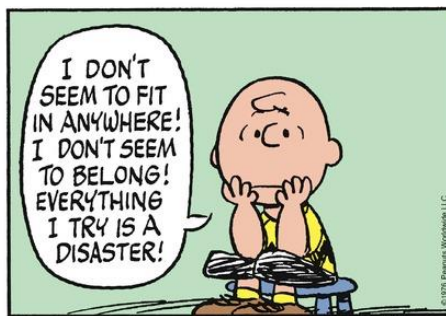
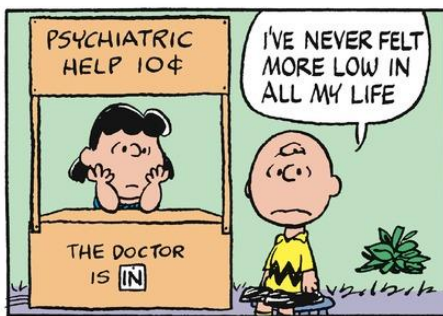
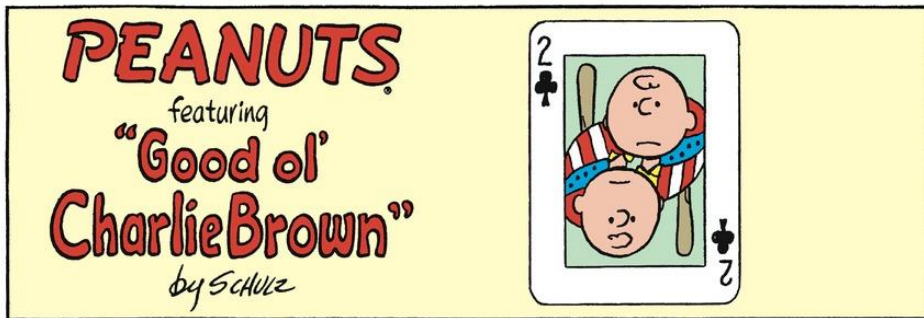
Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

November 3-5: [Hilton Head Sectional](#)

November 9-12: [Durham Sectional](#)

December 27-January 2: [Myrtle Beach Regional](#)

Special Congratulations to Kay Joyce and Bob White for finishing second in the ACBL District 7 Flight A North American Pairs competition in Charlotte. Kay and Bob will represent District 7 at the Spring NABC in Louisville, KY.



Unit 191 Membership Report

(TOTAL MEMBERS-525)

Welcome back

Debbie Sears and Michael Sears

Congratulations

Paul Cornwell - Junior Master
Joachim Pleil - Junior Master
Alice Hurley - Club Master
Alana Ennis - Section Life
Reece Schuler - Bronze Life Master
Gale Meyer - Gold Life Master
Laverne Burch - Ruby Life Master

Phylliss Wood,
Membership Chair



Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee Program

Unit 191 held a Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, October 10. Preceding the game was a lesson by Marc Goldberg on bridge scoring and strategy. You can find his notes [HERE](#).

We had 9.5 tables. Congratulations to Sonja Smith and Margaret Smith who placed first North-South and Ian Cloudsdale and Vanessa Brown who placed first East-West. And many thanks to all of you who brought snacks to share. Let's continue that tradition.

Following the game, some players stayed to discuss boards. First, the mentors and mentees paired off for their own individual discussions. Then we all got together for a group discussion, led by Eric Hamilton, of several interesting hands — a feature we'd like to make another tradition. Eric wrote comments on several interesting hands, which you can find on the Unit's web site: [CLICK HERE](#).

The next mentor/mentee game will be on Saturday, October 28, at The Bridge Academy at 10:00. Please come. The fee is \$11 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 \$17 per pair, for pairs where the mentee is from the Unit. We encourage mentees to pay their mentors' fees.

Following the game, we invite mentors and mentees to reconvene for lunch and discussion at Foster's Market.

There are two monthly mentor/mentee games: 10:00 AM on the second Tuesday and fourth Saturday of each month. Game fees are \$17 per pair if the mentee is from the Unit.

The M/M program has two new features this year.

1. Pairs who are not in the M/M program are invited to join the M/M game provided at least one member of the pair meets the qualifications to be a mentee: being a non-Life Master with fewer than 500 masterpoints.
2. After the Tuesday games, mentors and mentees are invited to stay after the game to discuss a few interesting hands as a group. Mentors will take questions from mentees or, in the absence of questions, will share a few learning points from the boards that were played. Please bring food to share. After the Saturday games mentors and mentees are invited to reconvene at Foster's Market for lunch and discussion.

The mentor/mentee committee,

Michael Lavine (chair)
Barbara Bute (board liaison)
Beverly Craig
Ed Fuller
Margaret Lindquist

Number Rules

Compiled by John Gignilliat

Rule of 2: With a double tenace use the Rule of 2. Missing two honors such as AQ10 or KJ10, it is best to finesse toward the lower honor first.

	AQ10		KJ10
KJx		AQx	
	xxx		xxx

As an adjunct to this rule, finessing for a missing queen . . . *Five ever, four never*, and missing the king . . . *three ever, two never*. The *never* in both of these cases is actually an almost a 50% guess.

Mel's Rule of 2: This is another one of Mel Colchamiro's excellent rules. He assumes you are playing some sort of two-suited convention over one

notrump bids such as DONT or Cappelletti. When the bidding goes 1NT – Pass – Pass - ??? and you are in the pass-out seat, look at your distribution. If you have two or more distribution points (at least two doubletons or a singleton) then bid. Bid two spades with these hands:

1NT Pass Pass ??? KQ1093 J1075 73 64 QJ10852 J43
1085 7

Why does this work? When the responder passes One Notrump, he has 0-7 HCP. On average, that is 4 points. Declarer has on average 16 HCP. That means you have half the deck in points or close to it. Don't let the opponents play comfortably in one notrump when you hold half the deck in points. The Rule of 2 makes sure you have some distribution to go with your points. Don't enter the bidding unless you have at least a singleton or two doubletons. If you have shape (5-5 for instance), you can make a bid with as little as 4 or 5 points, knowing that partner will have a good hand (14-16 HCP). One flaw with bidding partner's hand is that partner often gets over-excited and bids too much, not realizing you are already bidding his hand. Using the *Rule of 2*, be sure partner knows you are bidding on his points.

Rule of 4 and 4: It is usually better to play in the 4-4 fit rather than in a 5-3 or 6-3 fit (assuming both fits are majors or minors).

North: ♠AK109 ♥QJ10 ♦A43 ♣765 South: ♠QJ84 ♥AK987 ♦742 ♣5
The 4-4 fit is better for two reasons. With equally divided trumps, either hand may become the shorthand to create extra winners. With unevenly divided trumps, the shorthand is preordained. Secondly, you can use the longer side suit to pitch losers if it is not the trump suit.

Mel's Rule of 9: When your partner makes a takeout double, she is saying, "I have the other three suits and a good hand, please bid one of the suits." Occasionally you have the opponents suit and consider passing (converting the takeout double to a penalty double). Should you pass or should you bid? Following Mel's Rule of Nine, you will almost always get it right whether to pass or not pass. It requires a bit of memory work, but is worth the effort.

+ *High cards you have in their suit (including the ten)*
+ *Total number of cards you hold in their suit*
+ *the level of the contract*

Total = 9 or more PASS FOR PENALTY

1D Dbl Pass ?? // 2D Dbl Pass ?? // 1D Pass Pass Dbl

Rule of 11 This rule applies when the opponents employ fourth best leads versus NT and/or suit contracts. To determine the number of cards higher

than the card led in the other three hands, subtract the number of the card from 11. Reduce this count by the number of cards you can see in your hand and in the dummy and the result is the number of cards higher than the card led in the non-leading opponent's hand.

AQJ3
K1087 54
 962

With the lead of the 7, using the Rule of 11, tell you to play low to the nine.

Rule of 13 When you take your hand out of the board and before you look at the cards, count your hand to be sure there are exactly thirteen cards. You could be penalized if you look at your hand first.

Rule of 15: The player in fourth position, in deciding whether or not to open the bidding, should add the number of HCP's to the number of spades held in his hand. If the resulting number is 15 or more, the bidding should be opened. This rule is also known as Casino or Pearson Points. Pass Pass Pass ??? KJxxx xxx AQJx x **bid** // xxx AQxx KQx xx **pass**

Rule of 17: If partner opens a preemptive three spades or three hearts, add the number of high card points plus the number of cards in his suit. If the sum is at least 17, bid game in partner's suit. 3S Pass ???

Ax AKxx KJxx xxx **bid 4S** xx AQxx KQxx Kxx **Pass**

Rule of 20: A guideline that suggests opening the bidding when the sum of the high card points added to the total number of cards held in the two longest suits totals at least 20. This guideline applies to any seat. AQxxx KJxxx xx x (open one spade)

Rule of Boston: This is a little know acronym for leading. It stands for Bottom Of Stuff Top Of Nothing. (This acronym was created by Barbara Seagram.) In other words, lead low (bottom) if you have an honor. If you have no honor, lead the highest card (top).

Rabbi's Rule: If the king is singleton, play the ace.

Rabbi's Wife's Rule: If the queen is singleton, play the ace or king.

Rule of 160: If the combined age of your opponents is over 160, don't make the mistake of underestimating their ability!!!