

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – January 2024



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President's Corner

Dear Unit Members and Friends,

As we leave 2023, the unit is grateful for all those who have given of their time and energy to promote, play and sustain bridge this year. At this time, I would like to thank Marc Goldberg who keeps our website up to date, Janet Strobe, who gets out the Alert each month, and Ed Fuller and Michael Lavine who keep our mentor/mentee program growing and moving.

Additionally, we are grateful that the Triangle Bridge Academy and Henry Meguid give our membership a comfortable and inviting space for playing bridge, and hosting tournaments. Thank you.

The unit is proud of its accomplishments this year. We successfully ran three sectional tournaments and hosted quarterly lunches/potlucks, including a festive holiday party this month which was attended by 25 tables.

Thank you to everyone for playing, donating, and supporting Unit 191. We couldn't do it without you.

Happy New Year,



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**Good friends, good food, good music, good game,
GOOD TIMES
If you weren't there, you missed good fun.**





Game Schedule

Triangle Bridge Academy

Monday

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

[\(Click to register and pay\)](#) (No class 1/1 or 1/8)

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm – Wine and Cheese Social Bridge

[\(Click to register\)](#) (No social game 1/1 or 1/8)

Tuesday

January 9

9:15 am - Lesson

10:00 am - Unit Mentor/Mentee game

Wednesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

Friday

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs

(TBA closed 1/26-28 for Raleigh tournament)

1:30-3:30 pm – 299er Duplicate game

Guaranteed partner

Saturday

January 6 & 13

10:00 am - 499er pairs (no mini-lesson this month)

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

January 20

10:00 am - 8 is Enough Swiss

Triangle Bridge Club

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

Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

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

January 17-20 [Pigeon Forge Sectional and NLM Regional](#)

January 25-28 [Raleigh Sectional](#)

February 5-11 [Hilton Head Regional](#)

February 15-18 Durham Sectional

February 17-18 [Atlanta GNP District 7 Finals](#)

February 23-25 [Wilmington Sectional](#)

February 29-March 3 [Atlanta Sectional and NLM Regional](#)



Unit 191 Bright Leaf

Winter Sectional Tournament February 15 - 18, 2024

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

THURSDAY, February 15
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

ENTRY FEE: \$13/PLAYER/GAME
0-5 MP play for free!

FRIDAY, February 16
10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER
10 AM 149'er PAIRS

***FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**
2:30 PM GAMES ARE
REGIONALLY RATED FOR
MORE SILVER POINTS!



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
10 AM 149'er PAIRS

Awarding all silver points!

SUNDAY , FEBRUARY 18
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS
(Strata are based on average masterpoints)
PLAY THROUGH WITH LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
10 AM 149'er SINGLE SESSION SWISS TEAM GAME

Open Stratification:
0-1500, 1500 - 3500, 3500+

149'er Stratification:
0-50, 50-100, 100-150

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

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NEARBY LODGING
LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES
4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC
919-401-9660 \$100+ / NIGHT (includes breakfast)
Book early: prices will increase as available rooms decrease





Triangle Bridge Academy

Spring Future Life Master Tournament

March 22 - 24, 2024

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

10 AM & 2:30 PM ** STRATIFIED PAIRS
0 - 50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)
0-NLM (0-100, 100-300, 300 - NLM < 750)

****FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
2:30 PM GAMES ARE
REGIONALLY RATED FOR
MORE SILVER POINTS!**

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

10 AM & 2:30 PM ** STRATIFIED PAIRS
0 - 50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)
0-NLM (0-100, 100-300, 300 - NLM < 750)

awarding all silver points!

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED SWISS
0-100, 100-300, 300 - NLM < 750

ENTRY FEE for Stratified Pairs on Friday and
Saturday: \$13/PLAYER/GAME
0-5 MP play for free!

ENTRY FEE for Sunday Swiss
Teams is \$124/team and this
fee includes lunch

TOURNAMENT AND PARTNERSHIP CHAIR
HENRY MEGUID
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Member Spotlight Alison Bowes & Vanessa Brown

“We went to the Nationals – NABC—in Chicago!”

**CAMERA
SHY**

Alison grew up in Louisiana, in bayou country, south of New Orleans between there and Baton Rouge. She came to NC in 1991, to go to grad school at NC State. Grad school and Alison did not get along, but North Carolina and Alison did!

She is happily divorced with no children (by choice) and has one very spoiled dog (Molly, a dachshund - chihuahua mix scooped up from the intersection of Miami Blvd and Hwy 70!). She designs databases at Fidelity Investments for a paycheck.

Having a dear friend living near Chicago, adoring the city, and seeing that a huge bridge tournament (Nationals) would be there in July, she considered combining activities – after all the universe was talking to her and it sounded like great fun!

Alison asked if someone on their Swiss Team pool wanted to go the Nationals in Chicago. Vanessa leaped at the chance! Once Vanessa was on board as a partner, it was a done deal!

They arranged to practice Tuesdays and Thursdays using BBO and Face-to-Face every Saturday. They became accustomed to each other’s idiosyncrasies and improved their bidding communication. They also noticed that their defense improved considerably. They say this preparation was incredibly helpful.

Vanessa noticed that their best practice occurred while playing on Saturday in the open game – Yes, the open game! They benefited from the competition with more experienced players and were able to ask questions and get advice. This experience really helped prepare them: growing their skills and confidence, building their partnership in preparation. They became more familiar with and not confused by the logistics of the game.

Choosing which games to play in was fairly easy... playing in such a big event was enough. They were content to stick with the "beginners" (0-299'ers). They played 2 sessions a day for 3 days in a row – a total of 6 events, placing in 4 of them! They would have

enjoyed more but life realities do impose their limits (Alison still works, after all!) and there is another day!

Both Alison and Vanessa encourage other "beginners" (like them) to give tournaments a go! Alison says, "The energy is amazing, and everyone was incredibly welcoming and kind... and always happy to have more folks playing!" Vanessa adds "Take advantage of the Life Masters in our club. They are a very generous and valuable resource."

Membership Report

(TOTAL MEMBERS-518))

Welcome new members:

Michael Fitzgerald

Penghao Wang

Congratulations:

Sandra Fitts – Junior Master

Chellie Joines - Junior Master

Michael A Sauter – Club Master

Janet Strobe – Bronze Life Master

Deceased

Blanche J. Tremblay

Phylliss Woody
Membership Chair



Mentor/Mentee News

Mentor/Mentee game 12-Dec-2023 Mentor Discussion

Comments from Michael Lavine on the Unit 191 December 12
mentor/mentee game.

Board 2. East deals. NS vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ KQ4	
	♥ K52	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ AQJ75	
West		East
♠ 9862		♠ T75
♥ QT874		♥ J
♦ K7		♦ T9653
♣ T6		♣ 9842
	South	
	♠ AJ3	
	♥ A963	
	♦ A842	
	♣ K3	

EW will pass throughout and NS will bid. At our table the bidding went 1N-6N and I imagine the bidding was similar at other tables. Every table reached 6 NT. West has a natural lead of a heart. South can count 11 tricks, assuming clubs don't break 5-1. How can South find a 12th trick? The answer is that the DQJ can provide a trick. South can win the opening lead in dummy and lead a diamond. Even if it loses, South now has 12 tricks. In our game, 5 pairs made 12 tricks and 6 pairs made only 11 tricks. I imagine the pairs who made 11 tricks cashed their winners in the other suits before tackling diamonds. By cashing their outside winners, they set up winners that EW could cash when EW won the DK. The lesson: be wary of cashing your winners before you tackle a suit in which you may have to lose the lead.

Compare board 2 with board 7, below.

Board 7. South deals. Both vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ T43	
	♥ 7543	
	♦ Q9654	
	♣ 9	
West		East
♠ AQ2		♠ K8
♥ KJ		♥ Q8
♦ AJ8		♦ T732
♣ AK854		♣ QJ732
	South	
	♠ J9765	
	♥ AT962	
	♦ K	
	♣ T6	

NS will pass throughout. West has a balanced 22 HCP and many Wests will open 2C, planning to rebid 2N. A few Wests may discount the HJ because it's in a doubleton, so they may open 2N. In any case, West should show a balanced hand with about 21-22 points and EW should reach 3NT. North has an appealing lead of a low diamond. South plays DK and West wins DA. West can count 9 tricks: 3 spades, a diamond, and 5 clubs. It looks like West can also set up another trick in hearts and another trick in diamonds, using the jack and ten. But West must be careful not to set up the heart trick immediately, lest NS be able to run hearts when they win the DQ. If West establishes the diamond trick first then the heart trick can be established later.

The lesson here is similar to that on board 2: it's usually better not to give up control of outside suits before you try to establish your winners. In our game every EW that played in notrump made 11 tricks.

Board 6. East deals. EW vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ AK7	
	♥ Q94	
	♦ QT74	
	♣ 975	
West		East
♠ QJ432		♠ 9
♥ AKJT7		♥ 8532
♦ K8		♦ AJ52
♣ 6		♣ AK82
	South	
	♠ T865	
	♥ 6	
	♦ 963	
	♣ QJT43	

With 12 HCP, a singleton, and 3 quick tricks, East has a clear opening bid. East should open 1D and not 1C because, over the anticipated 1S response from West, East can rebid 2C. Sure enough, the bidding goes 1D-1S; 2C. West is strong enough to bid game. Most pairs play Fourth Suit Forcing to game, so West will bid 2H. 2H does not show hearts; it is merely a game forcing bid and could be artificial. On this particular hand, though, East has four hearts and can raise, even though West might not have a real heart suit. West does have a real heart suit, so raises to 4H. North's natural lead is SK, but West bid spades so North might choose a different lead. Whatever North leads, West sees that the only losers are spades and possibly a heart. What can be done about the spade losers? One can go away on a club, the others can go away only if they're ruffed. West's plan should be to use dummy's little trumps to ruff spades. If West pulls trump right away, then dummy will not have enough trump left to ruff spades. So, West should delay pulling trump and use East's hearts first for ruffing. West should lead a spade, if North hasn't already done that, and then try to ruff spades. West will need entries for leading spades. The entries could be the DK, a club ruff, and possibly one high heart. On this hand the SAK fall after two ruffs and the rest of West's spades are good. Every EW pair in our game reached a heart contract but they made either 9, 10, or 11 tricks. I suspect the difference lies in how many spades they were able to ruff. A slight variation is that North may lead a spade honor that shows N also holds the other spade honor. In that case West may infer that North has the other honor and may take a ruffing finesse through North