

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – FEBRUARY 2024



President's Corner

Dear Unit Members'

We are gearing up for the Winter Unit Sectional February 15 – 18 at TBA. If you are looking for a partner, you may contact me at afisher9tk@gmail.com. Deanna Larus is now the Winter Tournament Chairman. She can be contacted at deanna@elarus.com. We are looking for help with hospitality. There are sign-up sheets on the table below the bulletin board, or you can email Deanna or me. We are also asking for cash donations and an envelope will be passed around during the next 2 weeks at games. Your donations are very helpful in offsetting sectional expenses. We are so appreciative of the generosity of our unit members. Food donations are also welcome. The flyer below has additional information. **Because of the sectional tournament, we have moved up the “Eight is Enough” game to Saturday, February 10.**

Thanks to all of you who supported the Raleigh Sectional this weekend. There was a good turnout from our unit members and lots of people returned with silver points. Our unit is proud to have several players who finished #1 in their stratum!

Congratulations to:

- Maggie Smith and Jo Anne Rosenfeld who finished first in the 499'er Pairs on Friday morning (59.1%),
- Deanna Larus and Barbara Martin for their number 1 finish in Open Pairs on Friday afternoon (69.57%),
- Michael Lavine and Marc Goldberg who finished first in B/C/D Pairs on Saturday morning,
- Rosalind Lin and Mike Rice, first place finishers in A/X Pairs on Saturday morning (66.75%), and
- Gerri and Larry Stanczyk for a first-place finish in Saturday afternoon's 499'er game (67.86%).

See you at the table, Ann

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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



Game Schedule

Triangle Bridge Academy

Monday

February 5/12/19/23

12:30 pm - Stratified Open Pairs

February 12/19/23

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

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

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

Tuesday

February 13

9:15 am- Lesson

10:00 am - Unit Mentor/Mentee game

February 6,20,27

1:30 – 3:30 pm Nuplicate Barometer Game

Wednesday

February 7,14,21,28

10:00 am - Stratified Open Pairs

Starting February 14 - Modern Bridge Bidding I class 1:30-3:30 - [click to register](#)

Friday

February 2/9/23

12:30 pm - Stratified Open Pairs

1:30-3:30 pm – 499er Pairs (*Guaranteed partner*)

February 16 [Durham Sectional](#)

Saturday

February 3

10:00 am - 499er pairs (*Guaranteed partner*)

Two and a half tables are needed for 499'er game)

10:00 am - Stratified Open Pairs

February 10

10:00 am - 8 is Enough Swiss

February 17

[Durham Sectional](#)

February 24

10:00 am – Unit Mentor/Mentee game

Triangle Bridge Club

Online BBO open game: Monday at 7:00 PM



Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

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

February 15-18 [Durham Sectional](#)

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

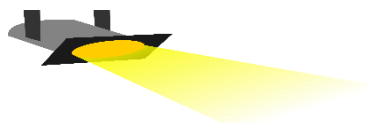
February 23-25 [Wilmington Sectional](#)

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

March 1-3 [Greensboro Sectional](#)

March 9-10 [GNT/NAP Charlotte](#)

March 22-24 Durham IN Sectional



Member Spotlight



Maggie Lindquist

Maggie was ten years old when her grandmother started teaching her, her sister, and her young aunt to play bridge. Her grandmother would gather the three girls at her house in the afternoon and teach them how to bid and play the game. They played an old version of Goren with four-card majors and other bidding conventions that have changed over time.

Playing different conventions has been a plus, not a negative, she thinks because it has given her experience playing seven card fits and other combinations that are not as common, but still come up today.

Maggie was born in Lawrence Kansas where her father, a WWII veteran, went to school on the GI Bill. The family moved to Springfield Missouri when she was 9 for a job change, and to reunite the family. She went to Drury college in Missouri, where she majored in chemistry and met her husband. They moved to Durham in 1970 when her now ex-husband enrolled at Duke. She worked as a chemist at a large pharmaceutical firm in the area for five years. She quit this job to raise two children and with her husband started the Whitehall antique business in Chapel Hill, which is still there today.

During this time, she continued to play social bridge. It wasn't until she retired twenty years ago that she started playing duplicate bridge, and it took a few tries to get started. The first attempt didn't go well because the people had been rude, which turned her off for a few years. When she got past that, and started playing regularly, she learned newer conventions

and picked it up very quickly. She made life master in less than a year and is now a Ruby Life Master with over two thousand points.

She says that she enjoys duplicate much more than purely social bridge because of the challenge. "In many ways, social bridge is just chance. The one with the best cards win." The major tip she has for people starting out in duplicate is to pay attention to what's happening at the table. The bidding, the discards, the play of the hand will give you clues as to who has what, and what you should do. Always stay focused. If you lose focus at the table, you are probably going to have a bad board and potentially a bad day.

Maggie started a summer youth program in 2012 and was a board member of the club for a few terms. She still has fun at the table and encourages young people to play. Recently she played with her two grandsons who, as active teenagers have limited time, but who both enjoy learning the game from their grandmother.

Membership Report

(TOTAL MEMBERS-517))

Welcome new members:

Janice E Weber

Transferred out of unit

Clay Hamner- New Unit # 153 – Charlotte
Dixie Hapgood- New Unit # 128 – Florida

Congratulations:

Pamela Richey – Junior Master
Sylvia Robinson – Junior Master
Joel Tepper– Junior Master
Thomas Barta – Sectional Master
Michele Smith - Sectional Master
Joe Bastian – Bronze Life Master
Eileen Bok – Bronze Life Master



Phylliss Woody
Membership Chair

Mentor/Missives

Unit 191 held a Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, January 9. Preceding the game was a lesson by Michael Lavine on Defender's Finesse Against Dummy. To see the notes: [CLICK HERE](#). We had 7 tables. Congratulations to Ian Cloudsdale and Vanessa Brown who placed first North-South and to Eileen Bok and Curlee Petty who placed first East-West. And many thanks to all who brought snacks to share. Let's continue that tradition. Michael Lavine wrote comments on several interesting hands, which you can find on the Unit's web site under the Mentoring Program tab: [CLICK HERE](#).

We did not have a Saturday mentor/mentee game in January because the date conflicted with the Raleigh Sectional. We expect to have two mentor/mentee games in February — on Tuesday the 13th and Saturday the 24th. Please bring snacks to share.

The next mentor/mentee game will be on Tuesday, February 13, at The Bridge Academy at 10:00 a.m. **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.

Preceding the game, we'll have a lesson by Marc Goldberg on Advanced Stayman and Jacoby Transfers. [LESSON HERE](#) when posted. Following the game, we invite mentors and mentees to stay for conversation and discussion of interesting boards. 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

Mentor/Mentee Discussion

9-Jan-2024

Comments from Michael Lavine

Board 11. South deals, none vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ 852	
	♥ 98753	
	♦ T972	
	♣ Q	
West		East
♠ QJ4		♠ KT763
♥ QJ2		♥ KT6
♦ Q6		♦ K54
♣ AKJ96		♣ 85
	South	
	♠ A9	
	♥ A4	
	♦ AJ83	
	♣ T7432	

Board 11 is full of close decisions. South will open the bidding, of course. Some Souths may open 1C and others may open 1D. The problem with opening 1C is that South doesn't have a good rebid if partner responds in either major. South doesn't have enough support to raise either major; South's clubs are not worth rebidding; and South doesn't have enough strength to reverse into 2D. It seems best to rebid 1NT even though the hand is not balanced.

An alternative is to open 1D and then, if North responds in a major, to rebid 2C. See [HERE](#) for a more thorough discussion of which minor to open by Larry Cohen. After South opens, we come to West. If South opened 1C, then West is quite likely to bid 1NT. EW can use all their notrump bidding tools, so East will likely transfer to spades, then bid either 2N or 3N. West, knowing of the eight-card major fit, will likely place the contract in spades, but has a close call between accepting or declining East's invitation to game. The good clubs sitting over the club bidder are encouraging but the secondary honors in the red suits might not pull their full weight, so are discouraging. In our game, three pairs reached four spades and two pairs reached three spades. One EW played two clubs and one played three notrump.

If South opened 1D, then what should West bid? 1NT is unappealing because West doesn't have a diamond stopper. 2C is possible because of the good club suit. Double is also possible because West is short in diamonds and can support every other suit. At our table, West doubled. Now East is worth a jump response in spades, which shows about 10 points. That got us to 4S. Four spades is a good contract. There are 9 easy-looking tricks — 4 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. A tenth trick could come from a diamond ruff, a club finesse, or setting up a long club. Unfortunately for EW, the defense can get a club ruff along with their three aces to defeat 4S.

Board 18. East deals. NS vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ J9	
	♥ 72	
	♦ AQJT8	
	♣ KJT7	
West		East
♠ K82		♠ AQT4
♥ JT983		♥ K54
♦ 9		♦ 73
♣ Q654		♣ A832
	South	
	♠ 7653	
	♥ AQ6	
	♦ K6542	
	♣ 9	

I expect every East opened 1C. Then, should South bid 1D? In my opinion, no, because that diamond suit is not robust enough for a vulnerable overcall and because 1D does not take up much of EW's bidding room. When South passes, West bids 1H. Then should North act? In my opinion, yes, because that diamond suit is robust enough, because North has a lot of potential for tricks between the two minors, and because this 2D bid does take significant bidding room away from EW. That gives East an easy call: double. That's a support double showing exactly three-card support for hearts. See [HERE](#) for Larry Cohen's notes and [HERE](#) for details on www.BridgeBum.com. South has enough to raise diamonds and no one else has more than they've already shown, so North likely plays in 3D. In our game four NS played in 3 diamonds; two EW played in hearts; and one North played in 2C. I expect East will lead a low heart, partner's suit, and North will take and win the heart finesse. That gives NS 10 tricks: 5

diamonds, two hearts, and, once trump are drawn, either three club ruffs in South or two spade ruffs and a heart ruff in North. NS will lose just two spades and a club. For some reason our four Norths made only nine tricks.

Board 20. West deals. Both vulnerable.

	North	
	♠ AK	
	♥ JT742	
	♦ T95	
	♣ 962	
West		East
♠ T873		♠ 42
♥ A		♥ KQ965
♦ AJ8432		♦ KQ76
♣ 73		♣ KQ
	South	
	♠ QJ965	
	♥ 83	
	♦ —	
	♣ AJT854	

I expect West to open 2D and North to pass. Then East should consider the following points. (i) There may be a game in hearts. West could have, for example, the two red aces along with two other hearts. Then there could be 5 heart tricks plus 6 diamond tricks. Of course NS might cash 3 tricks in the black suits first, but the game would still make. (ii) East has excellent support for diamonds, so is not afraid of bidding higher. (iii) NS could easily have lots of spades and East doesn't want to make it easy for NS to bid them. I think the most important consideration is (ii): the possible heart game. So as East, I would bid 2H. Bidding a new suit over a weak two bid is fairly rare, but it's good to understand the bid. When responder bids a new suit, opener should raise with any three cards or with a high honor doubleton. (Some pairs may play slightly differently.) Lacking support, opener should rebid their suit or, with a maximum, show an outside feature. On this hand West cannot support hearts and doesn't have an outside feature, so I suggest a rebid of 3D. Five of our seven tables played in diamonds. There is nothing to the play and all five EW made 10 tricks.

Making a Plan, Revising the Plan, and Combining Chances

By Marc Goldberg

At a recent club game, West picked up a terrific hand and opened the bidding 2NT.

♠ AK92
♥ K54
♦ A8
♣ AQ62

East transferred to hearts, and the pair ended up in 4♥- a good contract but challenging to play. Only 1 of 9 declarers made the contract, and some of those were experienced players. This piqued my curiosity about the best way to approach this hand.

W	N	E	S
2NT	P	3♦*	P (* transfer to hearts)
3♥	P	3NT	P
4♥	P	P	P

North makes a lead of the 9♦ (3rd/5th best), and here is the hand.

♠ Q74
♥ A9763
♦ J76
♣ T8

♠ AK92
♥ K54
♦ A8
♣ AQ62

(Since this is a lesson article, readers will have to put up with the teaching aspects of the narrative.) Before even calling for the first card from dummy, declarer should make a plan. In a suit contract, it is usually best to count losers (although there are some hands where counting winners can be a more useful approach). Declarers are used to counting losers in their own hand, but in the case of Jacoby transfers, the hand with the long trump suit should be considered as the master hand. Even though the East hand is the dummy and is on the table, West should think of their hand as the dummy.

Begin by counting losers from the master hand (East):

Spades- no losers. Two small spades are covered by the AK♠ in declarer's hand and Q♠ is also a winner. Note that the 4-3 shape could result in the little spade in declarer's hand becoming a winner if the outstanding spades split 3-3 (36% of the time).

Hearts- start by guessing (hoping) that the 5 outstanding trumps split 3-2 (68% of the time), so start with 1 loser.

Diamonds- 2 losers. One of the diamonds is covered by the A♦ in declarer's hand. The other two are losers.

Clubs- 1 loser. One of the clubs is covered by the A♣. The other is a loser. Declarer could finesse the Q♣, and that might be successful (50% probability).

Now for the plan. Declarer initially sees 4 losers and must figure out how to eliminate one of them in order to make the contract. The most attractive path is to ruff one of East's losing diamonds in the West hand. This is important to see- **ruffing cards in the hand with the long trump suit may win, but does not give you extra tricks. Ruffing cards in the hand with the short trump suit can give you extra tricks.**

A good approach is to win the opening lead with the A♦ in declarer's hand and immediately give up a diamond in order to set up a ruff. When defenders win the second trick, they could return a third diamond (good for declarer), a heart (doesn't hurt), or a spade (doesn't hurt). The only harmful play is for S to win the second diamond and find a club switch. At our table, North won the second trick and continued diamonds, so declarer got the ruff.

If declarer decided to pull trump before setting up the diamond ruff, here is what might happen. If declarer plays the K♥ and A♥ and then loses a diamond, the defender winning the second diamond trick might also be the player with another trump. If they play a trump, that eliminates the diamond ruff. That is why it is important to set up the diamond ruff early.

Now to pull trump. Hoping for a 3-2 split, declarer plays the K♥ from her hand and plays a low heart to the A♥. North shows out of hearts, so declarer assesses the bad news. South has two hearts, and they are both higher than the trump in the dummy. So it is time to pause and reassess the plan.

Declarer has already lost a diamond trick and will lose 2 trump tricks. She cannot afford to lose any more tricks and still make the contract. The problem is figuring out what to do with the losing club in the East hand. How does she handle that?

There are two possibilities. If the outstanding spades split 3-3, the fourth spade in declarer's hand will be good for discarding the losing club. If spades are 4-2, watch the spots. If the JT♠ falls doubleton, the 9♠ will be high. If this does not occur, declarer will have to fall back on the club finesse. This technique is called "combining chances"- try the things that

might work in an order that makes sense. If declarer tried the club finesse first and it loses, it doesn't matter anymore how the spades split since she will have already lost 4 tricks. Declarer should investigate the spade split first, and then try the club finesse if needed.

On this hand (see all four hands at end), spades do split 3-3 (hey, you were due for a bit of luck after that annoying trump split!). Declarer should play the 4th spade and discard a low club. South will ruff it but will use one of the top trumps to do it. Declarer has eliminated the club loser to a card that defenders were entitled to anyway.

At the end of the hand, Declarer has taken the following tricks.

A♦

Diamond ruff in declarer's hand

4 heart tricks (A, K, and two small hearts)

3 spade tricks

A♣

Ten tricks, plus 420!

In summary, the key to making this hand is making a plan, revising the plan when new information arises, and then combining chances to take ten tricks.

	♠ J86	
	♥ 8	
	♦ KT943	
	♣ K973	
♠ AK92		♠ Q74
♥ K54		♥ A9763
♦ A8		♦ J76
♣ AQ62		♣ T8
	♠ T53	
	♥ QJT2	
	♦ Q52	
	♣ J54	