



American Contract  
Bridge League

# Unit 174 Newsletter

## May 2018



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below. Click a link to jump to the corresponding section. If your browser does not support these links, scroll down to find a specific section.

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Please visit the Unit 174 Website ([www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org)) to view updated information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.

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## President's Message

This is my first President's Message and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those who have worked so hard on behalf of the Unit and to welcome those who are taking on that responsibility.

First – thank you so much to our outgoing Board members – **Dianna Gittelman, John Caudill** and **Nancy Strohmer**.

**Dianna** – thank you for agreeing to fill in an open board position and digging in and doing a great job as tournament chair at a great fall tournament at the Hilton North. The entertainment, venue and food were top notch due to all your work. I also want to thank you for work in getting us sponsors and chairing the restaurant committee at the Lone Star Regional (LSR). You are one of those folks that when you give them an assignment, you know it will be done and done well!!

I want to thank **John** for being a great board member, chairing the Summer Sectional and also working as the caddy chair, and STaC coordinator. I also want to thank you for being so diligent and offering your skills and knowledge to our new board members in these assignments.



A special thanks to **Nancy Strohmer**. Nancy has served on the board for six years. She is passionate about bridge and bringing the game to all. Nancy said yes to the board's request to be the acting president when **Bill Riley** had to step down due to his house being flooded by Harvey. Nancy is a true leader - organized, gets all involved, works harder than anyone, and was a wonderful mentor to me and all the board members. She will definitely be missed by the board! I cannot thank you and all the board members for their efforts and dedication – I have heard from many board members on how well this board operated and how it was such a pleasure to serve. That is a tribute to all, but especially those long-standing members who helped develop the board into the shape it is today.

Second – welcome new board members – **Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson** and **Sheryl Thomas**. You all have big shoes to fill, but I am fully confident that you all will step in and do a great job!

I am very excited about the coming year. We have a great board in place and all board members are ready to get to work. I appreciate all the support of the board and the unit members.

If anyone has any comments or questions, please let me know.

**Ken Hudson, President, Unit 174**

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## **Board Business**

The board had its first meeting Monday, May 7th, and elected officers as follows:

- ◆ President: **Ken Hudson**
- ◆ Vice President: **Lauri Laufman**
- ◆ Secretary: **Nancy Guthrie**

Board assignments for the upcoming year were made as follows:

- ◆ Awards: **Sheryl Thomas**
- ◆ Caddy Chair: **Sheryl Thomas**
- ◆ Charity Chair Representative: **Nancy Strohmer**
- ◆ Club Connections: **Nancy Guthrie**
- ◆ Flyer Distribution: **Kathleen Malcolmson**
- ◆ GNT/NAP: **David Henke**
- ◆ I/N Coordinator: **Kathleen Malcolmson**



- ◆ Sanctions: **Daniel Jackson**
- ◆ Supplies: **Jack La Vigne**

Chairs and co-chairs were named for the tournaments through next year's Election Sectional.

## ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting, **Gary Hercules**, Unit Treasurer, reported that our financial results have improved by \$17,000 over last year. Unit financial statements are [available for review here](#).

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners were announced. **Mary Pat Gentry** has won her Ace of Clubs category for the last 12 years!

- ◆ [2017 Ace of Clubs winners](#)
- ◆ [2017 Mini-McKenney winners](#)

The Board recognized the Unit recipients of District awards (previously announced): **Nancy Strohmer**, Texas Star Award, and **Gary King**, Teacher of the Year. Unit Goodwill recipients **Gary Hercules** Treasurer, and **Carol Winograd**, Webmaster, were also recognized.

The Board recognized and thanked departing members **Nancy Strohmer**, **John Caudill**, **Dianna Gittelman** and **Bill Riley**, who had stepped down previously. The Board welcomed **Jack La Vigne**, **Kathleen Malcolmson** and **Sheryl Thomas** to the Board.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Annual Planning meeting will be Monday May 21st. This meeting will be facilitated by **Norm Gautier** and it is the Board's opportunity to set its goals and emphasis areas for the coming year. More on this in next month's newsletter.



## New Members and Rank Advancements

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and about those who advanced a rank as of the 6th day of the previous month. Below are listed those players who either joined our unit or advanced a rank.

### NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following players to our unit: **Barbara A Andrews**, **Pawan K Bassi**, **Marilyn Beal**, **Pat M Dawson**, **Richard C Dickson**, **Raquel Fernandez**, **Mary S Fischer**, **Joanne Griffin**, **Lorri L**



Heffner, Mr John A Jacobson, Francie Knox, Rachel L Masters, Linda M Paxson, Roselyne Prescott, Ms Jacqueline R Prusak, Galen Staats, Donnie F Stephenson, Meredith Tolson, Mr Paul M Ward, Aline D Wilson.

## **RANK ADVANCEMENTS**

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for April, 2018. An explanation of ranks may be found at [www.acbl.org/masterpoints-results/masterpoint-ranks/](http://www.acbl.org/masterpoints-results/masterpoint-ranks/)

### Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Bill Nash, Debbie L Nash, Mrs Candy Roach, Sarah P Springer, Mrs Maria L Turner, Betty Westbrook, Mrs Elizabeth Wise.

### Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Thomas E Boaz, Rao M Chalasani, Mrs Saundra Cook, Jannis Duncan, Mary V French, Judy A Lodin, Mannie L Magid.

### Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Janet C Burroughs, Mr Robert E Lee, Yandell Rogers Jr.

### NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

NamesDorothea V Faubion, Mrs Sandra A Maalouf.

### **Bronze Life Master** (306 in Unit 174)

Carol K Banks

### *Silver Life Master* (189 in Unit 174)

Debra K Alexander, Mrs Linda M Martinsen.

### **Ruby Life Master** (175 in Unit 174)

Bruno Dellamea, Mrs Nan C Fulweber, Ms Nita B James, Dr W D Turner.

### **Sapphire Life Master** (50 in Unit 174)

Mrs Dianna A Gittelman

### **Diamond Life Master** (39 in Unit 174)

Jane M Armstrong, Mr Anton (Tony) Haddad.

*Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!*



## 174 Unit News

### **BIG SWITCHEROO (JUNE SECTIONAL)**

The [Big Switcheroo Sectional](#) will be held at the Westchase Marriott on June 8-10.

What's being switched?

For this tournament, pairs will play in the small room (the Foyer) and teams in the large room (the Pavilion). Entries for the games will be sold where they have been in the past.

This is by no means a permanent change. The Unit Board and the tournament chairs, **Daniel Jackson** and **Kathleen Malcolmson**, would love to read your feedback, even if it is anonymous. There will be forms at the hospitality desk. If the players like it, future tournaments may use this seating format.

We are planning two lectures to be held on Friday and Saturday at 2:00 pm. On Friday, **Gil Micheletti** will speak on "Doubles," and on Saturday, Daniel Jackson will share his strategy for "Beating the Bots."

There are a few other surprises planned, come and have fun at the Big Switcheroo!

### **ELECTION SECTIONAL**

The Election Sectional was very successful due to the efforts of **Lauri Laufman**, Chair, and **Nancy Guthrie**, Co-Chair. The Friday night social was well attended and a fun event. Look forward to having similar events at future tournaments. Sunday lunch went smoothly – players were able to get their lunches quickly and have enough time to eat and attend the Annual Meeting. We do not have final numbers yet, but it appears it is going to meet its budget.

Twenty-seven students from Westbrook Intermediate School in Friendswood experienced their first tournament bridge game on Friday morning during the Election Sectional. **Dr. Rob Burrige** has been working with the students for just a short time in learning the game and organized the field trip to the tournament. The students were very excited to put their new skills to work in the 0-5 game while the more "senior" players in the event enjoyed being at the table with these newer players. If you are interested in trying to bring bridge into schools in your area, please contact **Nancy Guthrie** at [nguthrie\\_houston1@comcast.net](mailto:nguthrie_houston1@comcast.net) or Stephanie Threlkeld in the ACBL Education Department.



## GNT SUCCESS

Unit 174 members won the District finals and will represent District 16 in three of the four Grand National Team events during the summer NABC in Atlanta:

- ♦ Championship Flight: **Dan Morse, Thomas Peters, John Zilic.**
- ♦ Flight B: **Wes Peirce, Thomas Rush.**
- ♦ Flight C: **Robert Burridge, Jack Dean, Jeanette Dean, Marsha Doyle.**

## SPECIAL GAMES - EXTRA POINTS

May has been designated by the ACBL as [Grass Roots Fund Month](#). Most, if not all, clubs in the Unit are offering Fund games all month. It's not too late to scoop up some extra points for your success at the table.

From June through August, most clubs in the Unit will offer [North American Pairs \(NAP\)](#) qualifying games. Dates of these games vary by club, so verify the game schedule of the club where you are planning to play.

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## Club News

Below please find information reported to us by the clubs in our Unit. Please send your club's news to Jeff Kroll at [texas.blue.hen@gmail.com](mailto:texas.blue.hen@gmail.com). Information on all our clubs is available on the [Unit 174 website](#). Check there for the most up-to-date schedules, results and other news.

### BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

"Camp BCoH" is operating at 4876 Louetta Rd, Spring, TX 77388. Reservations are required for the Memorial Day (May 28) "Hot Diggity Dog" game. Please bring a side dish that compliments hot dogs.

Visit the club website for the [May game schedule](#) and the [June game schedule](#).

### CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Check out the [Cypress Northwest web page](#) for the game schedule and directions. This club has recently been sanctioned; let's support it!

### FORT BEND DBC

In addition to games on Monday and Tuesday mornings, Fort Bend DBC offers classes on Saturday mornings in Richmond. Please visit the [club web page](#) for details and contact information.



## LAKE CONROE DBC

Lake Conroe DBC has special games on four Fridays in June: NAP games on June 1 and June 15; a Junior Fund game on June 8; and a Club Championship 8 is Enough Swiss Team game on June 29.

## LSBC

LSBC is providing a free barbecue lunch before the game on Monday, May 28. Food at 11am; game at noon. Reservations are required; contact Mary McDonald at [maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com](mailto:maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com) or 936-890-8593.

## WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its April awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Randall Lake** (Open) with 31.57 Masterpoints and **Gregory Andrews** (I/N) with 10.69 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Dolores Aquino** (Open) with 21 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 22 sessions. Congrats to all!

WBA will be hosting a Diamond Life Master party for Jane Armstrong on May 22. Reservations are required; please contact Katherine Onstott at [kjonstott@comcast.net](mailto:kjonstott@comcast.net) to make a reservation.



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## From the Editors

We are excited to have the opportunity to send out the Unit 174 Newsletter. We have worked together for several years, identifying information that from the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin* that may be useful, especially to I/N players. The last two years of these monthly summaries are available [here, on the WBA website](#).

### ***Bridge Bulletin* ARTICLE OF THE MONTH**

It was a difficult choice among three wonderful articles in the *May Bulletin*:

**Pat Harrington's** column (page 46) is an excellent primer on declarer play. Among the key points she made:

1. Plan before playing to trick one.
2. Determine where you can get rid of your losers.
3. Decide whether to pull trump or get rid of your losers first. You need a good reason not to pull trump.
4. Determine if a suit is likely to split.

**Mike Lawrence's** column (page 52), where he gives an example of how to play a hand, by planning, counting losers, and determining he can only play one round of trump.

And the winner (for us) is **August Boehm's** column (page 55). He discusses how to cut communication between the defenders, and how to create entries for yourself when you are declarer. Often the solution is to duck (when it's not suicidal). These are techniques that are needed to be routinely successful



## BRIDGE TIP: TEN THOUGHTS ON OPENING PRE-EMPTS

According to Tennyson, "In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." In the Spring our fancy turns to thoughts of lightly opening...

—1—

They work because they take away bidding room, hopefully from the opponents. Don't be reluctant to use them against the best opponents. They know how to effectively use bidding room. Take it away from them. It's effective to make your opponents guess. Sure, sometimes they'll guess right, but sometimes they won't. There was a hand in a recent *ACBL Bulletin* where Meckstroth and Rodwell, who might have the best partnership in the world, bid a small slam off 5 trump to the AK, because they had to guess because of a preempt.

—2—

If your opponents have a biddable game and double you, the mathematics of the score keeping, assuming your opponents have a biddable game, you can go down:

- ◆ One if you're vulnerable and they're not
- ◆ Two if the vulnerability is the same for both sides
- ◆ Three if they're vulnerable and you're not

—3—

Often you can bid at:

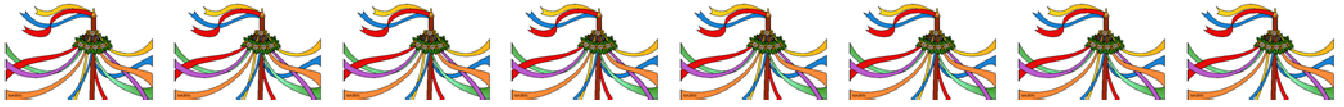
- ◆ The two-level with a six-card suit
- ◆ The three-level with a seven-card suit
- ◆ The four-level with an eight-card suit

—4—

Your position at the table is very important:

- ◆ You can be aggressive in first position as you are preempting two opponents and only one partner
- ◆ You should be conservative in second position (assuming righthand opponent has passed), as you are only preempting 2 people and one is your partner.
- ◆ You should be the most aggressive in third position, as you have a passed partner, so the only one you're preempting is one opponent. When you're not vul and they are (favorable vulnerability) you can go crazy with a weak hand and a long suit. Since partner passed and you're weak, they almost certainly have a vul game their way. I've made three-level bids with weak hands and a 5 card suit.
- ◆ You should plan on bidding what you can make in 4th seat, as you can just pass out the hand.





—5—

As shown in Mike Lawrence's column on page 52 in the April 2018 ACBL *Bulletin* there are strong hands in third position (after partner has passed) where you would just preempt to game as there is little chance of bidding and making slam and game is odds on. The Lawrence hand where he opened 4S is: Q J T 9 8 6 5 | K T 2 | A K Q | (void).

—6—

It's best to preempt when your high cards are in your long suit as you are likely to not take many (if any tricks on defense). If your high cards are in your short suits, that argues against preempting. You have defensive tricks, and if you end declaring you are likely to go down a lot as are likely to get trump tricks and outside tricks.

—7—

It's almost always wrong to raise your own preempt.

—8—

When partner raises your preempt, it's to further the preempt, and not to invite to game.

—9—

Over two-level preempts, investigating for game is typically done through a 2 NT bid by responder.

—10—

A new suit by a responder with a non-passed hand is typically forcing.

—♦♦♦—

Until next time...

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