



Unit 174 Newsletter October 2018



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

President's Message

Happy Halloween everyone- wishing you all get your favorite candy in your trick or treat bag... Halloween is now the unofficial start of the Holiday season, so off we go.

Our Unit Board has been in place for six months already. Time sure does fly when you are having fun! The Board has been working hard to make your bridge-playing experience an enjoyable one. We have been working on fine-tuning our tournament schedules, improving the physical layout and playing conditions of our tournaments and making sure our I/N group is getting the support needed to have a rewarding experience and want to come back and play. Our I/N Coordinator, **Kathleen Malcomson**, and her team are working hard to ensure this happens. If you are an I/N player and need help, they are easy to spot and would love to assist. Another area the Board constantly addresses is recruitment of new players and retention of existing members. **Catherine Miller** and her committee members do a great job of welcoming new players and touching base with inactive players trying to get them back into the game. **Betty Starzec** is passionate about education of all players and has great ideas to get new players playing this great game. Stay tuned for more information about these areas in upcoming news.

The Board wants to make sure our tournament schedules serve both our out of town guests and our members. One area of concern the Board has is a drop in attendance for our tournament Sunday games.



A very short survey was sent out on Tuesday morning for your input regarding how to improve our Sunday attendance and the goal is to better understand (1) why people don't attend (2) how to better attract those that might and (3) continue attracting those that do enjoy playing on Sunday. Your input is welcomed and all responses will be recorded and reviewed. If you haven't yet responded, we encourage you to [click here to take the survey](#), answer as many of the six questions as you wish and submit.

Palatino 11pt.

Ken Hudson, President, Unit 174

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Board Business

FABULOUS FALL SECTIONAL

We are ready and excited for our Fabulous Fall Sectional to be held at the Westchase Marriott November 16-18. **Nancy Guthrie** and **Jack LaVigne** have done a great job as Tournament Chair and Co-chair and we cannot wait to see all of you there.

2019 LONE STAR REGIONAL (LSR)

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Lone Star Regional (LSR) tournament to be held at the Westchase Marriott February 4-10. The Board is heading into the final planning stages – the schedule is in place; speakers are lined up; event-naming opportunities are available; advertising in our fabulous *Daily Bulletin* is being sold; and dining options are being finalized. Many thanks to those working so hard to make this LSR the best ever.

Please contact [Ken Hudson](#) to purchase an advertisement in the *Daily Bulletin*. [Use this link](#) or contact [Lauri Laufman](#) to name an event. Contact either of them with any questions regarding the tournament.

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: **Dianne Blackwood, Nancy Bolton, Marnie Helm, Lilah Jensen, Melissa Jones, Easter T Kirby, Diana Lecuona, John H Murph, Dennis O Neill, Margaret S Sample, Marylinn Schwanitz, Marvelyn I Scrapper, Edwin J Simek, Madeline D Sitze.**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for March, 2018. An explanation of ranks may be found at [on the ACBL website](#).

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Pawan K Bassi, Richard E Bird, Jack Blanton, Patricia A Davenport, Paddy R Fiorino, Dack Johnson, Ronda F Kelly, Artie Lane, Samuel Levin, Gail Lungaro, Roland B Moore, Lina H Patel, Frank Posada, Judy F Treadaway, James W Warren, Scott Yoder, George W York.

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Roger O Burrows, Charles Li, Phyllis L Maier, Terrence J McMahon, Ann Johnson, Thomas D Russell, Mary T Vagnoni, Betty Westbrook.

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

George M Cowan, Joy Cowan, Sue C Geller, Vijay V Khandekar, Linda Morgan, Robin E Thomas.

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Marvin Meistrich, Marcia Chambliss, Cheryl D Benash, Karen Winston, Wanda L Earles, Gay V Conner, Mary H Toland, Joan D Hayton, Phyllis M Maddox, Lindsay S Prizler, Danuta Parzych, Robert G Moll.

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Robert R Burridge, Douglas S Lilly, Chie Yen, Adrienne H Juno, Susan Morrow, David Littmann, Carol M McCord.

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Laura H Chandler, Russell B Chandler, Kenneth G Hudson, Jerry McNeely, Frank L Mitchum, Jeannie Stone.

Life Master (125 in Unit 174)

Donald W Bell, Martha G Dougherty, Marsha Doyle, Jo Anne Knodel, John P Montgomery, Toni Roesler, Carole P Samuels.

Bronze Life Master (310 in Unit 174)

Martin Gastrell, Indu Khera.



Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

Jean Martin.

Gold Life Master (89 in Unit 174)

Edwin (Ted) C Bain III,, Arthur J Giovannangeli, Carmen C Keys, Janis L Levy.

Sapphire Life Master (57 in Unit 174)

Dale R Crumbaugh, Carolyn D Jackson, Stephen C Toplansky.

Diamond Life Master (40 in Unit 174)

Daniel Jackson.

Emerald Life Master (12 in Unit 174)

Mary Pat Gentry

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

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DISTRICT 16 CHARITY GAMES

Charity games were and will be held across District 16 on October 19 and 23. One dollar per player will be raised for distribution to SEARCH Homeless Services in Houston.

Grass Roots Fund games were and will be held across District 16 on October 18 and 22. One dollar per player will be returned to the District to support our NAP and GNT players who represent us at the national level.

We hope you will participate in these games as the masterpoint rating is 81.8% sectional-rated black points. Wow! Don't miss this opportunity for winning more points!

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Strohmer, D16 Charity Chair, at 713-882-0626 or nastrohmer@yahoo.com.

FABULOUS FALL SECTIONAL

The Fabulous Fall Sectional will take place November 16-18 at the Houston Marriott Westchase. Guest speakers include Geoff Booth on "Attitude Adjustment" and Timo Erkoc on a topic yet to be announced. Start planning now with your partners and teammates!



LONE STAR REGIONAL

The 2019 Lone Star Regional will take place February 4-10, 2019, at the Houston Marriott Westchase. It's not too early to start planning with your partners and teammates.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

Many of you have qualified at the club level for North American Pairs (NAP). Club-level qualifiers are invited to play in the Unit qualifier games on November 10-11 at the Bridge Club of Houston. Unit-level qualifiers are invited to play in District qualifier games in January.

STaC WEEK RESULTS

What a STaC Week (October 8-13)! We had 639 tables at which 763 players earned 2011.72 masterpoints. The top 11 (there is a tie for 10/11): **Steven Bell, Dan Morse, Jeannette Dean, Jack Dean, Richard Duble, Beth Coker, Joe Quinn, Nancy Reader, Randall Lake, Puddin Barnes, and James Evans.** Well done!

SUPPORT ACBL WITH A SMILE

AmazonSmile, that is. Why not support ACBL when you shop for holiday gifts? Sign up at <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice...why not make it American Contract Bridge League Charity Foundation? If you have any questions, please contact **Nancy Strohmer**, U174 & D16 Charity Chair, ACBL Charity Foundation Trustee, nastrohmer@yahoo.com.

UNIT BRIDGE TEACHERS INVITED

All Unit 174 bridge teachers are invited to a "meet and greet" with **Barbara Seagram** at the home of **Betty Starzec** on Friday, November 30, from 4 - 7 p.m. This is a unique opportunity to meet Barbara who will share some of her winning teaching techniques and marketing tips. Those attending who are not members of the American Bridge Teachers' Association will be eligible to receive a free one-year membership in that organization. Door prizes will be given and light bites will be served. Please let Betty know if you will attend by emailing her at Lstarzec@comcast.net.

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. 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

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ October 31: Halloween Party and Costume Contest
- ◆ November 1: Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ November 7: Celebration of new Life Masters and above
- ◆ November 15: "8 is Enough" Swiss Team game
- ◆ November 19: Nighttime Mentor game
- ◆ November 20: Thanksgiving Party
- ◆ November 29 - December 2: 299r Tournament

KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Katy DBC has added a new location for the Tuesday 12p game. Come and join them for bridge, beer and BBQ at 222 West Grand Parkway South, Katy, TX 77494 (next to Costco).

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games take place on Fridays at 10:30a. Upcoming special games and calendar notes:

- ◆ November 9: Junior Fund game
- ◆ November 16: Club OPEN (not closed during sectional)
- ◆ November 23: Club CLOSED day after Thanksgiving
- ◆ November 30: Swiss Team game. Reservations required.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Games take place at 1p on November 8 at April Sound P.O.A. and on November 26 at April Sound Church.

LSBC

Games take place on Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Conroe. There is a 199er game the third Thursday of each month, directed by **Rani Sachdev**.

Diamond Life Master **Jeff Kroll** gives a free lesson every Thursday at 9:30 am. Problem hands from the students are always welcome. For partnership help, contact **Anita Rothfuss** at larryandanita@gmail.com.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ October 22: Grass Roots Fund game
- ◆ October 29: Halloween Party and Costume Contest. Witches' Brew Chili at 11a; game at 12p.

SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE BRIDGE – UPDATED

On **Thursday, November 8th**, Spring Branch DBC will host the October Birthday Bash, celebrating all players who have a birthday near that date. Players are requested to bring food, salads, and/or sandwiches. Club Manager **Judith Hoffing** shall bring the cake and soda!



WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its September awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Timucin Erkcoc** (Open) with 33.85 Master points and **Barbara Fagan** (I/N) with 11.65 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Timucin Erkcoc** (Open) with 28 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 24 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ November 1-4: 299r Tournament
- ◆ November 9, 10:30a: Life Master Party for Martha Dougherty
- ◆ November 9, 7p: "8 is Enough" Swiss Team
- ◆ Mentor games on November 14 at 10:30a and November 27 at 7p
- ◆ Supervised play on Tuesdays at 2:15p and Thursdays at 10:30a



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**

We think that Larry Cohen's article on opener's second bid after opening 1C and getting a 1H response does a thorough and concise job of covering the various choices. It discusses 11 key auctions that we review in our October 2018 ACBL Bulletin notes. The three most useful takeaways for advancing players are:

1. When to suppress a four-card spade suit
2. When to support with three-card heart support (not the expected four)
3. 4H shows 19+ points and is not a close-out bid

We also believe that learning when to make loser-on-loser is key to becoming a good declarer. This Bulletin provides three columns with examples of this that are well worth studying:

- ◆ Page 55, Cohen
- ◆ Page 56, "Challenge of the Month"
- ◆ Page 52, Stewart



TAKEOUT DOUBLE BY A PASSED HAND?

Board 20	♠ 8 6 4		
West Deals	♥ K 10 7 2		
Both Vul	♦ Q J 10 8		
	♣ J 7		
♠ K J 9 2		♠ 5 3	
♥ 9 5 4 3		♥ A 8	
♦ A K 9		♦ 7 6 5 4	
♣ 4 2		♣ A Q 10 6 5	
		♠ A Q 10 7	
		♥ Q J 6	
		♦ 3 2	
		♣ K 9 8 3	

We received a question about if and when a passed hand can make a takeout double and what the auction should have been on this hand.

The auction at the table was:

P – P – P -1C | X – P – 2D

This question raises a number of interesting considerations.

Hand Evaluation (part 1)

It's a close decision as to whether East, in third seat, should pass or bid 1C. One thing we teach all the time is that an AQ together is worth a lot more than a having them unsupported with other honors in separate suits. The AQ combination is worth closer to seven points than six. Also, high cards in long suits are worth more than high cards in short suits.

Double by a passed hand

West's double was definitely a takeout double. He has 12 support points and at least three-card support for all unbid suits. Holding clubs, he would pass.

One-bid hand

North has six points and a four-card major. He should bid 1H. With six points, you should respond to partner's opening bid, if you can do so at the one-level. With a one-bid hand, you should bypass the diamond suit in favor of the major. You and your partner should have an agreement as to when you would bid the diamonds first. Some partnerships bid the diamonds first if they have an invitational hand; some will do so only with a game-forcing hand; and others will always bid the major.

Standard responses to a takeout double

Given North's pass, 2D by East is a reasonable call. Standard responses to partner's take out double:

- ♦ 0-8 points bid your best suit (don't bid the suit that partner doubled) as cheaply as possible. Yes, with zero points you must bid. The weaker you are the more important it is that you bid.
- ♦ 9-11 points, jump in your best suit (this was the case in the auction above)
- ♦ 12+ points cue bid the suit that is being doubled

We recommend [Larry Cohen's article](#) on this topic.



Other responses to a takeout double

Although 2D is a reasonable call, East has a great defensive hand and partner's takeout is promising about three tricks in the side suits. Given the vulnerability, we would pass, converting the takeout double to a penalty double. Our second choice would be 1D. Game is not a possibility, given West's initial pass. Furthermore, East would like to give NS the opportunity to find a 2C contract, which East would double for penalty. West has shown the three other suits with the double, so East should not be concerned that NS will run somewhere else.

Hand evaluation (part 2)

If we were bidding all four hands, the auction would be P – P – 1C -P | 1H – P – 2C.

The East hand can be promoted into 12-13 points:

- ◆ 10 HCP
- ◆ 0.5 for the AQ. The Q is more likely to take a trick when it is with the A.
- ◆ 1.0 for the fifth club. Length counts when bidding your own suit.
- ◆ 0.5 for the CT. This is a useful T; it's in a long suit that has other honors.
- ◆ 0.5 for the two As. As are worth about 4.25.

South would pass with no biddable suit. South cannot make a takeout double with a doubleton diamond.

West would bid 1H, showing four hearts and at least six points. Even though the spades are better, bid four-card suits up the line. If East has four spades, he will bid them next.

North passes (and kind of likes West's heart bid).

East's 2C is best that can be done. Opener can rebid a five-card suit when stuck and East is definitely stuck. 2D would be a reverse, showing 17+ points. With East's spade holding, NT would be big gamble. West must pass 2C. Get out early with a mismatch. Do not explore and go down, possibly doubled.

Aside: If the diamonds were better, we would open 1D so that we would have a non-reverse rebid. This is not an uncommon treatment of 4-5 in the minors. However, in this case we do not want partner to take a preference to our first suit if he is equal in both.



RANK ADVANCEMENTS - UPDATE

Last month we noted that that rank advancements are reported concurrently with their appearance in the Bridge Bulletin and, therefore, a month after we might think they should be reported. We are pleased to inform you that beginning next month, we will be able to get rank advancement information a day or two after it is official on the 6th of each month. So beginning next month, both the website and the unit newsletter will reflect the prior month's advancers. And for next month only, we will double up and report both the September and October advancers. Note that Unit website and newsletter will no longer be concurrent with the *Bridge Bulletin*.

Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
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