



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter September 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

We are already into the middle of September and I hope your summer has gone well and all of you earned many points and had wonderful adventures wherever life took you. Last month's President's Message had a shout-out to **Jimmy Breihan** and a bridge tip he gave me. Well – Jimmy went and did one better and he and his partner are the featured pair in this month's Bridge Bulletin article, "The Bidding Box." Maybe somebody at the magazine was reading my stuff – just wishful thinking. Congratulations to Jimmy!!

A couple of things that came across my radar during the month that I think we all need to think about:

The Unit has had a couple of instances where perfume and/or body soap aroma caused issues with players. I thought I was adhering to the "no perfume" policy, but I did not realize that I was guilty of violating this rule and didn't even realize it. I have refrained from using cologne when playing bridge – but when we shower and use heavily scented soap – it, too, can cause an issue with people who are sensitive to this. Please be considerate and avoid using cologne/perfume or heavily scented soaps before playing in our Unit events.



We had an interesting conversation at the Clear Lake Club about discussing hands after they had been played. Not only is it distracting to players still playing, but doing so is actually a violation of **Law 90** (ACBL Laws, that is) to have a discussion which may be overheard at another table. It is also a violation of the same law to compare scores with anyone other than the opponents against whom you played the board.

As a practical matter, you may be passing along information to players who have not played these hands. If you must discuss the hand with your partner before the game is over, please go somewhere where you cannot be overheard.

See you at the bridge table.

Ken Hudson, President, Unit 174

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Cell: 713-204-5505

Board Business

The Unit Board is hard at work on...

FABULOUS FALL SECTIONAL

We are in the final planning stages for our Fabulous Fall Sectional to be held at the Westchase Marriott November 16 - 18. **Nancy Guthrie** and **Jack LaVigne** are doing a great job as Tournament Chair and Co-Chair and we cannot wait to hold our next tournament and hope to see most of you there.

2019 LONE STAR REGIONAL (LSR)

We are also hard at work and heavy into the planning stages of the 2019 Lone Star Regional (LSR) tournament to be held at the Westchase Marriott February 4 - 10. It takes many hands to put on such a large event. We have a great schedule with lots of opportunities to earn gold points plus two multi-session team games – Evening Swiss and Mini-Soloway KOs. We are fortunate as a Unit that we have so many individuals who have stepped up to help plan and hold one of the largest regional tournaments in the country.

Our hospitality team is working with eateries near the Marriott to make players feel welcome and have nice dining experiences. **Betty Starzec** as the speaker chair has put together a super line-up of informative and entertaining speakers. We are working with a creative Daily Bulletin editor to make that publication even more useful and relevant. We are developing a marketing plan to get information out to our members early and often.



As in the past, opportunities abound to honor, celebrate or promote:

- ◆ Event naming. Certain events – or even a whole day – can be named to honor or celebrate someone special. **Lauri Lafuman** is chairing this effort.
- ◆ Advertising. The *Daily Bulletin* accepts advertising from companies or individuals who want to promote their products and services to our audience. **Ken Hudson** is leading this effort.

Things that each of us can do to prepare for the LSR:

- ◆ Reserve your room nights at the Westchase Marriott – use this link to get the tournament discounted rate – easy peasy to do.
- ◆ Get your teams and partners arranged – never too early.
- ◆ Think about naming an event for someone special. Contact Lauri Laufman at llaufman@texas2211.com for details.
- ◆ Consider placing an advertisement in the Daily Bulletin – or suggest that your company do so. Contact Ken Hudson at kghudson@comcast.net for details.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Board is developing a survey to gather information from our members on how to improve our sectional tournaments and increase participation - particularly in our Sunday events. We look forward to everyone's thoughts and input.

The Unit Election for officers will be held at the April Sectional. The nominating committee, headed by **Stephen Reich** is working on developing a slate of candidates to present to the members. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member or nominating someone to become a Board Member, please contact Stephen at sreich42@gmail.com.

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: **Jack L Bailey, George M Bisbee, Kathryn K Coleman, Thomas Dilger, Laurie A Dundrea, Richard J Force, Priscilla L Forkner, Albert J Furst, Patricia A Holy, Harriett D James, Kathryn L Ketelsen, Teresa W Manchik, Sarah E Parsons, Rosemary H Reifel, Helen M Schisow, Janie S Stevenson, Yuheng Wang.**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for July, 2018. An explanation of ranks may be found at www.acbl.org.



Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Ava Noble , Emilee G Ahern, Mary Burrows, Randall Clements, Susan Cooksey, David Feuerbacher, Beverly E Hamblen, Jean Mills, Mary R Robinson.

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Helen S Burton, Scott B Cantor, Paula C Easter, Jeanne M Kokes, Maureen P Mallory, Kathleen F McDougall, Ned Stuart, Mary Vaughn

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Rao M Chalasani, Patricia Freeman, Connor J Grant, B Haznedar, Mannie L Magid, Sue L McCulley, Johara M Nour, Pamela Vincent, Michael S Wei.

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Vera Annenkova, Mark Levy, Joseph M Maxwell, George E Rosen.

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Jenelle W Chamberlain, Bruce R Weiner, Helen M Wren.

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Nancy Guthrie

Life Master (121 in Unit 174)

Barbara H Abney, Suzanne B Noerager, Julialee O'Shea, Linda J Windham .

Bronze Life Master (000 in Unit 174)

Linda Albright.

Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

Joyce K Grindle, Marilyn N Jordan, Marge Rambo.

Ruby Life Master (178 in Unit 174)

Bill F Joplin, Raleigh S Williamson.

Gold Life Master (89 in Unit 174)

Nancy Reader.

Sapphire Life Master (55 in Unit 174)

James E Breihan, Bill Gemas, Lucy Terrill.

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!



174 Unit News

BIDDING BOX EXPERT: JIMMY BREIHAN

You may have noticed a familiar name in the "Bidding Box" article (page 37-39) in the September Bridge Bulletin. **Jimmy Breihan**, one of the Westside Bridge Academy owners, is one of the expert players featured. He and his partner, **Joe Yassi** (Toronto, Canada), completed against **Allan Simon** and **Daniel Bertrand**, a Canadian pair. The hands were bid a few months ago on BBO. Moderator **Bruce Rogoff** was at the table while Jimmy and Joe bid the hands. After each hand was bid, the moderator would ask any clarifying questions and then they would go on to the next hand. Jimmy commented that "it was a lot of fun to do, even though we didn't win."

DISTRICT 16 CHARITY GAMES

Charity games 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 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.



UNIT STAC WEEK, OCTOBER 8-14

Earn silver points in the comfort of your home club! October 8-14 is STaC Week, "STaC" stands for Sectional Tournament at Clubs. Games during this week are tournament-rated, so masterpoints points awarded will be silver rather than the usual black.

♣ 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

BCoH has moved into its new location at 4688 Louetta Road, Spring TX. Volunteers packed, moved, unpacked, arranged and rearranged so that everything was ready to go on Monday, September 17. Thanks to all.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ September 27: Swiss "8" is Enough
- ◆ October 4: Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ October 7: MiniBridge
- ◆ October 15: Night Mentor game
- ◆ October 20: Club Grand Opening. Reservations will be required.
- ◆ October 27: Swiss "8" is Enough
- ◆ October 31: Halloween Party (prizes for costumes)
- ◆ November 29 - December 2: 299r Tournament

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Games are Tuesday and Thursday at 12pm at the Richard and Meg Weekly Community Center, 8440 Greehouse Road, Cypress, TX 77433. Please check in by 11:45am. **Darrell Way** (darrellway@yahoo.com) is ready to help you find a partner, if necessary. Visit the [club web page](#) for information about the Jane Johnson Appreciation game in October.

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

The following special games will take place in October (all Fridays):

- ◆ October 5: Junior Fund game
- ◆ October 12: Jane Johnson Appreciation game
- ◆ October 19: ACBL-wide Charity game

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

The games on Thursday, October 11, and Monday, October 22, will be Jane Johnson Appreciation games. Extra points will be awarded.



LSBC

Starting on September 20, LSBC will offer a 199r game on the third Thursday of each month, directed by **Rani Sachdev**. You must have a partner; contact **Anita Rothfuss** (larryandanita@gmail.com) for help in finding one. Contact Rani (936-321-6855) or **Mary McDonald** (936-890-8593) for more information

All games in September are International Fund games with extra points.

WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its August awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Timucin Erkcoc** (Open) with 34.75 Masterpoints and **James Sells** (I/N) with 14.46 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Jane Boozalis** (Open) with 25 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 19 sessions. Congrats to all!

WBA is hosting a 499r tournament September 20-23.

Supervised play is offered Tuesdays at 2:15pm and Thursdays at 10:30am.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Mentor/Mentee games on October 17 at 10:30am and October 23 at 7pm.
- ◆ "Eight is enough" team game on October 19 at 7pm.

Barbara Seagram, one of the ACBL's most popular and successful teachers, will present "Defensive Strategy and Signaling" on Saturday, December 1. The \$50 registration fee includes both breakfast and lunch. Attendance will be limited to 160 people. Reservations are required and are currently being accepted. Please refer to the [WBA website](#) for details.

WBA congratulates **Carole Samuels** on becoming a Life Master. She went to the Dallas Labor Day Regional needing 9.28 gold points and came away with 25.68. Way to go, Carole!!



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 like **Mark Horton's** column, "Misplay These Hands with Me" on page 52. It shows that even the very best players make basic mistakes. Kudos to Horton for publicizing his. Having opened 1N and ending up in



6H with a 6-3 trump fit, he chose to pull trump immediately, relying on a 2-2 opponents' trump split. This is an inferior line of play, as it happens less than 41% of the time. Many players would choose the same line in their haste to pull trump. As he correctly points out, it is correct to use declarer's trump to ruff those losing spades. Even if there is an over ruff (which there is), by ruffing the second spade, he can still make the contract.

When there is a NT open and declarer winds up in a suit contract, it is the declarer's hand that is usually short in trump, not the dummy. Therefore, extending the power of the trump suit is done by trumping in declarer's hand before pulling trump.

Our runner-up column is **Eddie Kantar's** "Chalk Talk" on page 53. He covers two common defensive situations that players frequently get wrong.

THREE PLACES TO PLAY

After last month's column on 6-5 hands, we received a question about how to bid the following hand:

Spades: Q x
Hearts: A Q J x x
Diamonds: A K Q x x x
Clubs: (void)

Having opened 2C (based on losing trick count: three losers) and partner having bid 2D, showing an A or K, the reader wanted to know what the next bid should be. He suggests 3D, based on both suit quality and length and would bid 4H over a black suit continuation by partner.

Our Take

Opening 2C with distributional hands is a matter of style. The hand is a three-loser hand, and many players indicate on their convention cards that they will open 2C with 8 ½ tricks or more.

However, we subscribe to Larry Cohen's theory that a 2C open calls for at least two aces and two kings. Therefore, we would open this hand 1D. The plan would be to reverse into hearts on next bid, 100% forcing and showing 17-21 points (recall point 5 in our July column). The third bid would be hearts again -- probably 4H, showing at least five decent hearts, at least six decent diamonds and enough for game. If it were certain that partner would not pass, we might bid 3H to conserve bidding space.

So: 1D - P - ?? - P | 2H - P - ?? - P | 4H -P-?? Partner can now make an informed decision.

We like the two aces / two kings guideline as it put us in a better position to double aggressive players (like us) who will interfere to call for a lead, to take up bidding space, or just to disrupt the auction.

Although this is a two-suited hand, the best place to play could easily be notrump if partner does not have three hearts but does have stoppers in the black suits. Opening 2C may get us too high too fast to explore all the options.



It is standard not to open 2C with a three-suited hand (or a hand with three possible places to play), no matter how strong it is. There is just not enough bidding room to describe it. Working with a compressed bidding space sometimes forces us to guess at the final contract because we are just plain out of room. Furthermore, if we regularly open 2C lacking defensive values (Cohen's "two aces, two kings" guideline), partner will not be able to double when appropriate.

There is a small risk that our bid will get passed out, but that happens rarely. If we have a three-suited hand, someone else at the table has length where we have shortness and is likely to bid that suit at least once.

This hand screams for us to declare, not defend. We don't have good defensive values. We would explore the possibilities for game in this order: (1) Hearts, (2) Notrump and (3) Diamonds. A less-likely fourth possibility is that partner has a self-sufficient spade suit (with the help of the queen), or all the clubs in the world with no entry.

If we were to open this hand 2C, we agree with the reader's logic. We would show our longest and strongest suit with 3D. Bid what you're looking at. We would then bid 4H over partner's black suit continuation. Partner can't be sure that we have five hearts, so he may take us back to diamonds with three little cards in each red suit.

Note from last month: Holding five hearts and six of a minor without enough strength to reverse, open 1H. It's more important to show the five-card heart suit than the six-card minor when you are not strong enough to show both.

BBO TO DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

On Saturday, September 1, **Daniel Jackson** played 24 hours of BBO bridge against the robots. His goal was to make Diamond Life Master "with style." He won 24.19 masterpoints on BBO that day, more than any other ACBL member (including **Leo Lasota**, the perennial online champ, who was second with 14.20 points).

Think about it -- that's more than a point per *hour*. He played **576** boards and was never dummy. So he had to maintain focus for every one of those 576 boards. Daniel has uploaded videos of this marathon to YouTube. You can search for them by clicking [this link](#) or by going to YouTube and searching for "bbo_cake_eater."

And, in case you were wondering... Daniel is now a Diamond Life Master. Well done!



BRIDGE LESSONS AT LONE STAR COLLEGE

Jeff Kroll will be giving two lectures at the Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL), located at the Montgomery campus of Lone Star College. The lectures are:

- ◆ "Declaring" on Tuesday September 18 at 1pm
- ◆ "Defense" on Tuesday September 25 at 1pm

Registration is required as is membership in ALL. Visit the [LSC-Montgomery ALL website](#) for more information.

FYI ...

Over the last six months (how time flies!) we have had several questions about address changes and the rank advancement section of the newsletter.

Address Changes

Address changes must be made through the ACBL. District 16 (Mexico and most of Texas) updates its list each month based on the information received from the ACBL. If you do not receive the newsletter, (1) verify that it did not go to your junk email folder and (2) check the email address in your ACBL profile and make changes, if necessary. If neither of these situations applies, send us an email and we will try to hunt down a solution.

Rank Advancements

Rank advancements are sent in the same monthly update from ACBL as the address changes. Rank advancements are reported to the District in the same month they are printed in the Bridge Bulletin, which is the month AFTER they are official (and, therefore, a month after you might think they should be reported). So, for example, everyone listed in this newsletter earned his or her rank in July. The rank was official on August 6 and names are listed in the September Bridge Bulletin and in the September unit newsletter.

Our unit website is updated monthly with the correct number of masterpoints held by each member. So the [unit masterpoint holdings](#) do reflect the correct totals as soon as they are official, but the rank advancement listings will lag by a month.

Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
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