



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter February 2019



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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

Wow – The 2019 Lone Star Regional is in the books – what a great week of bridge it was!!! I hope everyone had an enjoyable experience and played bridge to their heart's content. Personally, it was hectic, busy, and, looking back, fun and rewarding. It was good to see everyone from all over our Unit and District. Thank you to all who came and played!

I would like to thank many people for all their efforts leading up to and during the week. My first thank you is to **Lauri Laufman** for her tireless work in planning, creating the schedule, working with the Marriott staff, updating the *Daily Bulletin* and being a sounding board and outstanding bridge partner! Lauri worked very hard to ensure this LSR was the best ever and I thank her for all her efforts. My thanks to the Unit Board – you all are supportive and willing to do whatever it takes to make sure the needs of the players are met. I would also like to thank our Chairpersons of the Hospitality, I/N and Newcomers and Partnership desks – **Sam Khayatt**, **Nancy Guthrie** and **Bill and Nancy Riley**. I know they worked long and hard to make sure all our players felt welcome, had partners, and received their hospitality gifts and awards. Special thanks to Sam for staying up late and making the much-appreciated players' labels. Great job by all. I would also like to thank **Betty Starzec** for securing what I think is a line-up of speakers unrivaled by any Regional tournament. I hope you enjoyed listening and



learning from them as much as I did. They were informative, entertaining and engaging. Thank you, **Dianna Gittelman, Rhonda Bryant** and team, for putting together a fantastic restaurant guide and securing over 90 door prizes for our players. Super-duper and I wish I had won one. Thanks to our photographer **Al Fortier** for being everywhere needed and taking great pictures for our *Daily Bulletin* – there wasn't a bad picture in the bunch. Thank you to the *Daily Bulletin* editor, Ivette Chapman at Speedy Printing. Ivette worked late into the night to make sure the bulletin was complete and e-blasted out to all players. We hope you enjoyed reading it and reviewing the results. Our caddy team, led by Marc Faca and his wife Amy Hoffman, did a super job all week. We received many positive comments regarding how hard they worked with a smile on their faces.

We are compiling our post-tournament report and gathering comments and suggestions. We are also awaiting our survey results to incorporate into our planning for next year's LSR. Rest assured your comments and suggestions are heard and acted upon. Please take time to complete the survey – this information is invaluable to us to help improve our tournaments.

Our total table count was 2,917.5 – a little shy of last year's phenomenal number, but in line with previous LSR's. We would have loved to hit the 3,000 mark and will strive to be there next year. We do not have all the expenses yet, but we feel they will be in line with our budgeted amounts and that the tournament will be successful from a financial perspective.

Again – thank you to all who came and played in the 2019 LSR. Our bridge community is vibrant and enthusiastic and a wonderful group of people.

Ken Hudson, President, Unit 174

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Board Business

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

At the Annual Meeting, members will have the opportunity to vote on a proposal to change the Unit Bylaws to allow a member in good standing to vote for 1, 2 or 3 candidates and not be required to cast a vote for each vacancy in order for the ballot to be counted. [Click here for the complete proposal.](#)



SCORECARD - HOW DO YOU GET YOURS?

As part of a larger District 16 initiative, the Unit Board will be gathering opinions on paper vs. digital delivery of the Scorecard (the bi-monthly newspaper). The exact mechanism for collecting opinions has yet to be determined, but your opinion will be sought sometime in the next few weeks.

VOTE!!!

Save effort and time and VOTE online from March 11 until April 2! It's easy... go to www.acblunit174.org, place your mouse over "MyUnit174" on the right side of the menu bar, click on "BOD Election" and follow the instructions. Your last chances for in-person voting will be one hour before each session of the Election Sectional on Friday and Saturday and then on Sunday morning. Candidates for three open Unit Board positions are: **Debi Balter, Cindy Cox, Lauri Laufman, Paul Nimmons, Clif Rice and Thomas Rush.**

[Click here to view candidate statements and voting rules.](#)

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: **Ralph Baldrige, Derek Beck, Cindy Brown, Bill Bush, Bob Canobbio, Myrtle Dean, Linda Dellsperger, Barbara Geiger, Albert Gray, Jean Lara, Michael Lee, Mary Malone, William Manuel, Mary Ann Murray, Donna Pellican, Charles Salsman Jr, M L Shniderson, Jane Wood**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for January, 2019. An explanation of ranks may be found at www.acbl.org.

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

James D Brown, Gail E Burbridge, James W Haylett, James F Helms, Craig P Howard, Joseph C LoCicero Jr, Garlanda G Melton, Cynthia Monroe, S S Newaz, Ronald K Perkowski

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Carol T Bauer, Mike Bowman, Nancy Bowman, Mary Burrows, Dennis B Malpass, Bill Nash, Debbie L Nash, Angela R Sanders, Jitendra D Shah, Saeed Zafar



Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Jackie Alder, Tamara B Dyer, Paddy R Fiorino, Ann L Johnson, Ronald A Robins, Thomas D Russell, Betty Westbrook

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

David A Badertscher, Jay Evert, Gregory May

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Doris R Everette

Life Master (124 in Unit 174)

Elaine L Brill, Laura H Chandler

Bronze Life Master (306 in Unit 174)

Sharon K Arnold, Troy A Carr, Connie Conover, Susan N Mandel, Claire W Zimmerman

Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

Karen S Fireman, Gary W Shepley, Billie K Watkins

Ruby Life Master (170 in Unit 174)

Timucin Erkoc, Judy B Gibson, Mary Jo Torczon, Jane Turner

Gold Life Master (90 in Unit 174)

Linda Rensi

Diamond Life Master (40 in Unit 174)

Randall B Lake

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News

LONE STAR REGIONAL RESULTS

We had a nice turnout at the Lone Star Regional, co-chaired by **Ken Hudson** and **Lauri Laufman**: 1558 players earned a total of 18,347 masterpoints. Thank you all for coming out to play. Unit masterpoint winners in the top 25 were: **Eddie Wold** (7), **Betty Starzec** (11), **Jack LaVigne** (14), and **Steven Bell** (25).



ELECTION SECTIONAL, APRIL 5-7

It's not too early to make plans for the 2019 Election Sectional, held April 5-7 at the Westchase Marriott. Tournament chairs **Nancy Guthrie** and **Sheryl Thomas** have arranged an event-packed tournament. District 16 GNT qualifiers run throughout the tournament. On Sunday between sessions, we will have our Annual Meeting, where we will vote on proposed changes to the bylaws. Our volunteer speakers are **Barbara Phillips** on Squeezes and **Gil Micheletti** on Special Doubling. Volume II. And there will once again be \$1 snack bar coupons for Friday and Saturday, so that we all may indulge in our caffeine or sugar fix of choice. [Click here to view the tournament flyer.](#)

GET AWAY TO GALVESTON, NOVEMBER 1-3

Make your plans now for the fabulous fall sectional tournament at the beautiful Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center. In addition to Bridge sessions, there will be entertainment on Friday night and a Casino night on Saturday. Sunday's games will be regionally-rated, so more points will be awarded. For reservations call 1-888-388-8484 or [click here to jump to goo.gl/REJo6G](#). The group ID code is ACBL112019.

SPECIAL GAMES - EXTRA POINTS

February has been designated by the ACBL as Junior Fund Month. Most, if not all, clubs in the Unit are offering Fund games and other Charity games. It's not too late to scoop up some extra points for your success at the table.

UNIT CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK

March 3-9 is Unit Club Championship Week. Come on out and get some extra points!

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

Julie Halperin gives a free lesson every Tuesday at 9:30am, before the 0-20 supervised play event. The lesson is open to all.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Feb 21-24: [NLM/499r Tournament](#)
- ◆ Feb 28: Swiss team "8 is Enough"
- ◆ Mar 2: Daytime Mentor game



- ◆ Mar 18: Nighttime Mentor game
- ◆ Mar 28: Swiss team "8 is Enough"

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Starting in January 2019, the Cypress NW DBC offers a free bridge lesson on Tuesdays! The class will begin at 11:00 and end at 11:30 so there will be plenty of time to get a spot in our Tuesday game. There will be rotating teachers, but the focus will be to introduce a topic and then look at example hands. We will also leave some time at the end of the class to review hands from last week's games that were particularly hard or interesting.

Free Classes:

- ◆ Feb 26: Jacoby 2NT
- ◆ Mar 5: When to penalty double
- ◆ Mar 12: Jacoby Transfers
- ◆ Mar 19: When to postpone leading trumps
- ◆ Mar 26: Splinter bids

Special Event! Thursday, Feb 21, is a Club Championship game -- a chance to win extra black MP for the same price!

Please visit [our website](#) for information on our location, game times, finding a partner and the speaker schedule.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

The bridge club at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Conroe is now officially the Lone Star Bridge Club (it was formerly known as LSBC). The new website is www.lonestarbridge.org.

Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll gives a free lesson every Thursday at 9:30 am. Upcoming topics include problem hands/topics from students, explanations and recommendations on convention card choices, and key points from old and new issues of the ACBL *Bulletin*.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Feb 21: ACBL Grass Roots game
- ◆ Feb 25: ACBL Charity game
- ◆ Feb 28: Local Charity game
- ◆ Mar 4: Unit Club Championship game
- ◆ Mar 7: Unit Club Championship game

WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its January, 2019 awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Joe Quinn** (Open) with 53.53 Masterpoints and **James**



Sells (I/N) with 26.92 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Ariel Leibovitz** (Open) with 26 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 26 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Mar 13: Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ Mar 15: Swiss team "8 is Enough"
- ◆ Mar 26: Nighttime Mentor game
- ◆ Supervised play Tuesdays at 2:15pm and Thursdays at 10:30am

Upcoming classes (start date / time listed):

- ◆ Feb 20, 2pm: Learn to Play Bridge with **Joe Quinn** and **Terry Currie**
- ◆ Feb 16, 10am: Supervised play for the Flight C Player with **Gary King**
- ◆ Mar 23, 10am: Supervised play for the Flight B Player with **Gary King**

Robert Todd Seminar

Robert Todd, *Bridge Bulletin* contributor, professional Bridge player and LSR 2019 speaker, will present a seminar on "Slam Bidding" Saturday, May 11. The \$50 registration fee includes both breakfast and lunch. Reservations are required. Email jimmybreihan@comcast.net to make your reservation; send payments to: Westside Bridge Academy, 9000 Southwest Freeway, Ste 290, Houston, TX 77074. Please see the [WBA website](#) for more information.



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 selected from three very good pieces:

- ◆ Bidding Box, Problem 4: The auction demonstrates a clean way to bid a slam with only 25 combined HCP.
- ◆ Eddie Kantar's column (page 53): Against a forcing defense, delay pulling trump to keep from losing control of the hand.
- ◆ August Boehm's column (page 54): The topic is planning your bids. Avoid making an easy bid when there is a better one available. Avoid putting yourself in a position where your next bid will be selected from a group of bad choices.



We chose Bidding Box, Problem 4 (page 38). We get more questions/emails on how to bid good slams that are based on fit and distribution rather than HCP than any other question. The other two pieces are written up for our *Bulletin* notes on the WBA website.

The *Bridge Bulletin* auction is as follows:

West	North	East	South
1H	2H	X	2S
P	P	3C	P
4D	P	4H	P
4S	P	6C	

- ◆ 1H by West is standard, although if we had one more diamond and one fewer club, we would open it 1NT. We're fine if partner transfers us into spades.
- ◆ 2H by North is a Michaels cue bid, showing spades and a minor (5-5 or better).
- ◆ X by East. We would play this as having the other two suits, clubs and diamonds, and values to compete.
- ◆ 2S South likes partner's spades – at least three-card support.
- ◆ P West expects partner to balance, and not let them steal it for 2S.
- ◆ P by North.
- ◆ 3C by East shows at least five clubs.
- ◆ P by South.
- ◆ 4D by West is a splinter. This is the key bid, showing a singleton or void in diamonds, and probably four clubs. Splinters almost always show four-card support.
- ◆ P by North.
- ◆ 4H by East shows a heart control and slam interest, as there are no wasted values in diamonds. West's only diamond high card is the ace; other diamond honors would likely be wasted opposite East's void or singleton. The hands fit.
- ◆ P by South
- ◆ 4S by West is a cue bid, showing the SA.
- ◆ P by North
- ◆ 6C by East, ending the auction. When East pictures West's hand, in most constructions there will not be more than two losers.

GAME FORCING EXCEPT WHEN SUIT REBID

On the first page of the ACBL convention card, in the General Approach section, there is a line that describes 2/1 (in words, "two over one"). We teach this a lot and get many questions on it.

Some play 2/1 as a game force only when the first bid is a major; others treat all 2/1 sequences (including 1D - 2C) as a game-forcing, unless responder has previously passed. There's no game-force by a passed hand in either case. Playing 2/1 and holding 6-12 dummy points, you respond 1N to



partner's major-suit opening if you do not have three-card support and, if partner has opened 1H, you do not have four spades.

Consider these two hands, both of which meet the criteria for a 1N response to a major-suit opening bid:

#1 Ax xxx xx AQTxxx

#2 xx xxx xx AQxxxx

If partner opens a major, the auction might go:

1M – 1NT

2D – 3C

In this sequence, 3C is to play. It shows a long (six-card) suit and no game interest. The 1N bid has limited your hand. The 3C bid is an accurate description of hand #2.

However, it's not such an accurate description of hand #1. You have an invitational hand and do not want to insist on a 3C contract, if you can make a no trump game. With some partners, you might just close your eyes, cross your fingers, hold your breath and bid 3N. You especially might do this in a team game, where you don't want to miss a game, particularly a vulnerable game.

Our preference, instead, is to check the box on the convention card that says: Game Forcing Except When Suit Rebid. This box refers to a rebid by responder, not opener.

Let's reconsider Hand #1. You would like to show your invitational (but not game-forcing) hand with its six-card club suit. So you bid.... 2C, showing a game-forcing hand. Partner bids 2D and you then bid 3C. Rebidding your suit turns off the game-force. With the box checked on the convention card, when you (responder) rebid your suit, the game force is off. You have described a good 10- to a bad 12-point hand with a decent six-card club suit. Now partner has a good picture of your hand and can place the contract. Frequently he will bid 3N, but if the hands fit poorly and he doesn't see a likely nine tricks in no trump, he can pass the 3C bid. The same treatment applies to 2/1 bid in other suits as well.

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