



# Unit 174 Newsletter

## June 2019



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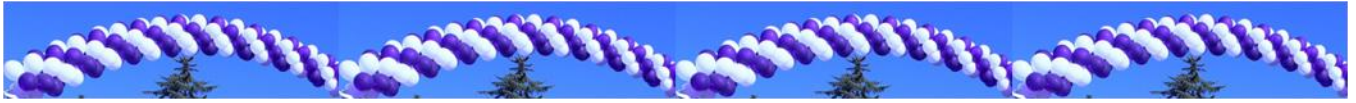
Please visit the Unit 174 Website ([www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org)) to view updated information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.

## President's Message

The question arises constantly as to what is being done to promote duplicate bridge and enhance our newcomers' experience. This month's post cites two recent events along with some well-deserved thanks.

"Bridge as a Sport" is a new concept to some, but not to us. Two years ago, **Joe Giovannangeli** approached our unit board to ask for assistance in making bridge an official sport for students. His information was sound, enthusiasm contagious and the board agreed.

Joe and board member **Nancy Guthrie** determined their first goal would be to work towards "bridge as a sport" within the Texas public school system. After months of preparation and assistance from others, they requested and successfully received an invitation to present their proposal to the Universal Interscholastic League (UIL). The UIL is the governing body for sports in all Texas public schools. Their five-minute presentation was made on June 11th to an audience of 36 Superintendents of Schools in the state of Texas and 30 UIL employees.



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Hats off to Joe and Nancy! Though not approved (this time), their presentation was well received with all members now aware of the potential benefits of adding bridge to their curriculum in some fashion. And now, the groundwork has been laid to continue this initiative moving forward.

In addition to Joe and Nancy, special recognition goes to **Carol Wilson** for her diligence in wordsmithing the proposal presented to the UIL. [Click here to read this fabulous proposal.](#)

Thanks also go to **Nancy Strohmer, Betty Starzec, Paul Cuneo**, our Unit Board, **Al Levy, Ed Rawlinson** and **Patty Tucker** for their contributions and support.

For our newcomers, I/N coordinator **Cindy Cox** incorporated new signage, including red helium balloons, and recruited extra volunteers at our June Sectional as part of our initiative to welcome our newer players help them become comfortable playing at our tournaments.

Signage was used to direct our newer players to the I/N table so that, after being welcomed, they could be escorted to the pairs entry table and then to their first table assignment. As always, all our I/N players were greeted, offered assistance, tip sheets, and new-player packets. First-time time tournament players also received a free play. Many compliments later, we deemed this initiative a success.

Thanks go to volunteers **Vera Annenkova, Rubin Chang, Joy and Mike Cowan, Nancy Guthrie, Jackie King, Mark Levy, Kathleen Malcolmson, Clif Rice, Barbara Sweeney, Gigi White** and, of course, **Cindy Cox** for working together help create what appears to become a new normal in the I/N area!

*Lauri Laufman, President, Unit 174*  
[llaufman@texas2211.com](mailto:llaufman@texas2211.com)

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## **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: **Mercedes G Barker, Pat S Esslinger, Sherry G Freese, Martin J Hrachovy, Kathleen Keeling, Barbara J Laber, Annette Moore, Theron L Moore, Harriet A Schwarz, Renee M Tappe, Clint Wall, Michael Wells, Tamara Zurawski, Robert Zurawski.**



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## **RANK ADVANCEMENTS**

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for May, 2019. An explanation of ranks may be found at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org).

*Junior Master* (5 Masterpoints)

**Stephen H Golub, David S Good, Marian Harrison, Patricia A Holy, Hasin F Jinna, Kathryn M Johnson, Jeff S Little, Martha D McWilliams, Donna Scott, Peggy Smith, Janie S Stevenson, Wynette B Stuntz, Marie Underdown, Karen L White, Linda A Wright**

*Club Master* (20 Masterpoints)

**Leon J Daily, John P Doyle, Chris Duncan, Walter Hecht, Ronda F Kelly, James W Moore, Aparna Rao, Sarah P Springer, George W York**

*Sectional Master* (50 Masterpoints)

**Saundra Cook, Janet J Hill, Gary Kerr**

*Regional Master* (100 Masterpoints)

**Kenneth E Bond, Moira Morris, Yandell Rogers Jr.**

*NABC Master* (200 Masterpoints)

**Barbara Fagan, Charlotte M Howell, Millie H Perner, Michael Wells, Robyn G Williams**

*Life Master* (130 in Unit 174)

**James C Sells**

*Silver Life Master* (192 in Unit 174)

**Mercedes G Barker**

*Ruby Life Master* (177 in Unit 174)

**Rick W Barrett, William J Van Dame**

*Gold Life Master* (91 in Unit 174)

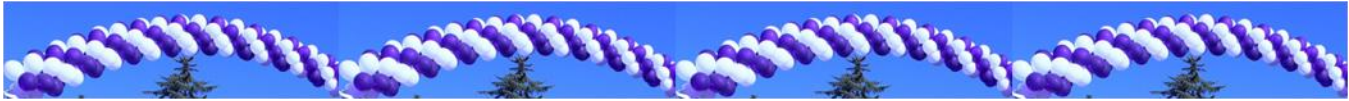
**Bill St Clair**

*Sapphire Life Master* (59 in Unit 174)

**Ariel Leibovitz**

***Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!***

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## 174 Unit News

### DAN MORSE'S TEAM IS USA1 FOR D'ORSI CUP



Congratulations to **Dan Morse** (second from right) and the rest of the KASLE team (**Kit Woolsey**, Peter Boyd, **Steve Robinson**, **Bart Bramley** and **Gaylor Kasle**), who secured the USA1 spot for the 2019 D'Orsi Senior Bowl, part of the [44th World Team Championships](#), which will be held in Wuhan, China, September 14-28. The KASLE team defeated the LALL team, 216-158.

### NEARLY SUMMER SECTIONAL RESULTS

We had a nice turnout at the Nearly Summer Sectional, co-chaired by **Sheryl Thomas** and **Kathleen Malcolmson**: 634 players earned a total of 2925.75 masterpoints. The table count was 618. Thank you all for coming out to play. Unit masterpoint winners in the top ten were: **Tom Breed**, Joe Quinn, **Dan Morse**, **Daniel Jackson**, **Carol Samuels**, **Anton (Tony) Haddad**, **James Breihan** and **Pat Levy**. [Click here for tournament results.](#)

### THE LONGEST DAY ... WEEK

Clubs in our unit are holding special fundraising games this week because it includes June 21, the longest day of the year. A portion of the game fees from Longest Day games support research on Alzheimer's disease. Please support our clubs' efforts in these events. Information about the ACBL's support of The Longest Day events can be found at [https://www.acbl.org/clubs\\_page/special-events/the-longest-day/](https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/special-events/the-longest-day/).

### NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

North American Pairs (NAP) club-level qualifier games have begun and run through August. The Unit has decided not to hold Unit-level qualifiers, so Club-level qualifiers are invited to play in District qualifier games in January.

### DISTRICT STAC RESULTS

The District 16 STaC tournament took place June 10 - June 16. "STaC" stands for Sectional Tournament at Clubs. Games during this week are tournament-rated, so masterpoints awarded were silver rather than the usual black. We had a nice turnout: 2350 players won 5785.02 masterpoints. There were 1893 tables in play. Unit 174 masterpoint winners in the top ten were: **Terrie Currie**, **Patti**



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Mullendore, Stephen Toplansky, L Laird, Ralph Herz and Timucin Erkoc. [Click here for tournament results.](#)

### **AMBITIOUS AUGUST SECTIONAL, AUGUST 8-11**

The August tournament, at the Houston Westchase Marriott, is our "experimental" tournament, where we introduce something new to the tournament experience. This year, the bracketed Swiss Team events will be played with duplicated boards, just as the pairs events are played. Swiss Team participants will have hand records and will be able to review hands without having to write them down or take pictures of them. And... you can play in the evening Swiss Team event for only \$5 per session. Tournament chairs **Daniel Jackson** and **Clif Rice** are hard at work putting it all together.

### **GALVESTON SECTIONAL, NOVEMBER 1-3**

We are taking our show on the road, so to speak, down to the lovely 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. Our room rate is \$149 per night. For reservations call 1-888-388-8484. The group ID code is ACBL112019. Tournament chairs **Jack LaVigne** and **Cindy Cox** are working hard to make this a wonderful getaway.

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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**

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ June 20 "8 is Enough" Swiss Team
- ◆ June 27-30 499r Tournament [Click here to view flyer](#)
- ◆ July 4 Hot Diggity Dog Day Meal at 11am; game at 11:55.  
Please bring sides.
- ◆ July 11 Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ July 20 Member Appreciation game



## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ July 9 Club Membership game
- ◆ July 11 Club Membership game

Free classes on Tuesdays! Throughout the month of June we will be covering Chapter 2 of the ACBL's *Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century*. While you do not need the book to attend the class it is available online from Baron Barclay [www.baronbarclay.com/](http://www.baronbarclay.com/) for \$19.95. You get a discount if you use your ACBL number.

Looking for a partner? **Darrell Way** is ready to help. Email him at [darrellway@yahoo.com](mailto:darrellway@yahoo.com) Have questions? Contact Club Owner **Jim Warren** at [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com) or 832-851-4745. Keep an eye on our webpage -[www.bridgewebs.com/cypressnw/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/cypressnw/) - for more details about the classes.

## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club continues to run games on Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am. Diamond Life Master **Jeff Kroll** gives a free lesson every Thursday morning at 9:30 am. They will now focus on key points made in the ACBL Bulletin and topics and hands from the members. Topics and hands can be submitted directly to Jeff or in the box at the club.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ June 20 NAP Qualifier (half red / half black points)
- ◆ June 24 NAP Qualifier (half red / half black points)
- ◆ June 27 Club Championship game
- ◆ July 4 Charity game for St. Paul and pot luck lunch
- ◆ July 11 NAP Qualifier (half red / half black points)
- ◆ July 15 NAP Qualifier (half red / half black points)

## WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its April awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Joe Quinn** (Open) with 41.59 Masterpoints and **Lauri Lankford** (I/N) with 9.47 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **James Sells** (Open) with 26 sessions and **Gigi White** (I/N) with 19 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ June 22 Longest Day game. Details below
- ◆ July 4 4th of July party. Hot dogs with all the trimmings.  
Email [KJonstott@comcast.net](mailto:KJonstott@comcast.net) for reservations
- ◆ July 10 Daytime Mentor game



- ◆ July 11-14 299r Tournament
- ◆ July 16 Life Master party for **James Sells**.  
Email [KJonstott@comcast.net](mailto:KJonstott@comcast.net) to reserve your spot.
- ◆ July 23 "8 is Enough" Swiss Teams
- ◆ July 29 - [Beginning Bridge](#) with **Terry Currie**
- ◆ August 1- [Play of the Hand](#) with **Terry Currie**

WBA is participating in the longest day on June 22nd to help raise money for Alzheimer's. There will be a 9am pairs game, a 1:00pm pairs game and a 6:00pm Swiss game. Players will have a chance to bid on experts to play with in one of these games or on a date to be determined later. Auction sheets will be posted at WBA



## 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**

This month's Bulletin contained many useful articles. For us, the choice came down to Lawrence's on hand evaluation or Bergen's on placing missing cards. We chose the Lawrence article on page 53, as there was little we could add to the Bergen column.

Lawrence presents the following hand: **J 10 7 6 5 2 | 6 5 2 | K 10 9 4 | Void**

Most of us would consider this hand too weak to make an opening bid, except in third position. In the third position,

- ◆ At favorable vulnerability, (non-vul vs. vul), we would open 3S, to interfere with their likely vulnerable game (or slam).
- ◆ At even vulnerability, we would open 2S.
- ◆ At unfavorable vulnerability (vul vs. non-vul), we would pass.

However, when partner opens 1D, we like the prospects for our hand. We have a nice diamond fit with partner, and if partner has spade support for us, we could very well have a game with this motley collection. Our club void is important.

So we should not make a weak jump shift of 2S, as we could easily miss a game. 1S is the proper bid.

When Lefty doubles (likely showing hearts and clubs), that's good for us as we don't want partner to have hearts and clubs.



Then, when partner bids 2S, we know we are going to game as that promises four spades (with three spades, he would make a support re-double). Once we know we have ten spades in the combined hands and we are distributional, the Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) is useful. The LOTT says that we are likely to take the same number of tricks as we have trump: ten. Plus we have a second source of tricks: the diamond fit. Double-fits usually result in lots of tricks.

When Righty bids 3H, our meager four-HCP hand continues to grow. Now you “know” (or can assume) the opponents have a least an eight-card heart fit. Since you have three hearts, partner should have no more than two (a good partner will have fewer). You can ruff at least one heart in partner's hand - the one short in trump.

We might even have a slam! But we would be happy bidding and making 4S.

The opponents also have a double fit (clubs and hearts) and may go to 5H. If they do go to 5H, we won't take a trick with our hand unless we can get partner on lead to give us a club ruff. That is a tall order. We would bid 5S over a 5H bid by partner.

The full list of articles we considered:

- ◆ Alder on third-hand key defensive plays (page 44)
- ◆ Parrish on passing in the direct seat with nothing else to say (page 45)
- ◆ Berg on bidding two-suited hands (page 46)
- ◆ Cohen on standard bidding sequences after 1H-1S (page 47)
- ◆ Helms on when to open 1N with a five-card major (page 50)
- ◆ Kantar on a strip and endplay (page 51)
- ◆ Lawrence on hand evaluation (page 53)
- ◆ Boehm on choosing active vs. passive defense (page 54)
- ◆ Bergen on using carding to place missing cards (page 57)

## **TO BID... THE *IMPOSSIBLE SPADE* ...**

Well it's not truly impossible; all the spade bids should be in every bidding box. The impossible spade is part of Bridge Bulletin standard bidding. It is used in The Bidding Box auctions when appropriate.

When we respond 1N to partner's opening bid, we usually deny a four-card major. If partner has opened 1m (minor), we deny four cards in either major; if partner has opened 1H, we deny four spades.

Consider this auction (opponents silent):

1H – 1N

2m – 2S





What does the 2S call mean? It should not mean that we just found a fourth (or fifth or sixth...) spade. There are no calls that show a missorted hand. This call is the impossible spade. Holding four (or more) spades, we are expected to bid spades in response to the 1H bid. So, it's impossible to show four spades now (even if we have them).

One common treatment\* for the 2S call is to show a good raise of opener's minor. The 2S bid is alertable and it shows a better hand than if responder had immediately raised partner's 2m bid to 3m.

Another treatment of the 2S call is to show either minor. If responder can have either minor, opener should bid 2NT. Responder will show his minor.

Consider this auction (opponents silent):

1H – 1 NT

3D – 3S

The 3D bid is game-forcing. The impossible 3S bid is alertable and tells opener that the responder has no clear bid. Responder is likely unsure about whether to play in no trump or in diamonds. Opener must decide how to proceed. Opener can re-bid a six-card heart suit, bid 3N with stoppers in the black suits, or re-bid diamonds with a two-suited (at least 5-5) hand.

The impossible spade showed up twice in the May 2019 ACBL *Bulletin* "The Bidding Box," (pages 37-39):

#### Problem 4

East holds: 9 5 | **A 6** | **J 10 8 3** | **A 9 6 4 2**

West deals; the opponents are silent.

1H - 1N (forcing)

2C - 2S

East's 2S bid is the impossible spade, showing a good (within the range defined by the prior 1N bid) club raise and helping find the club slam.



Problem 7

East holds: 9 5 3 | **A Q** | **10 8 6 5** | **A J 9 5**

South deals; the opponents are silent.

1H - 1N (forcing)

2D - 2S

East's 2S bid is the impossible spade, showing a good (within the range defined by the 1N bid) diamond raise and helping find to the diamond slam.

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\*For other treatments of the impossible spade, refer to

[www.vcbridge.org/Savage%20Conventions/Impossible%20S%20Rebid%20by%20Responder.pdf](http://www.vcbridge.org/Savage%20Conventions/Impossible%20S%20Rebid%20by%20Responder.pdf)

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