



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter May 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

***Breaking News!** Congratulations to Sally Wheeler and the rest of the DISA team on securing the USA2 spot in the 2019 Venice Cup.*

Welcome to the neighborhood and this month's bridge family newsletter.

It is with a warm smile that I remember my first duplicate game partner (Helen) and my first mentor (Sarah), neither of whom I knew until we ended up playing bridge together. The kindness I received from each of these women and many others who took time to say hello and encourage me to keep on coming back was paramount to my sticking around... and writing today's post.

Did you know that we have a committee whose members welcome members who are new to our Unit or have recently relocated here? This committee provides information about clubs, events, classes and our website. I'd like to thank **Catherine Miller** and her committee members: **Gail Carter, Judy Ensor, Sam Khayatt, Shirley Kingsley, Sharon Kirkland, Lenna Landers, Odis Nolte, Julia O'Shea, Nancy Shomette** and **Susan Stone**.

How can we extend this same spirit beyond new Unit members to everyone, all the time? How do we ensure that everyone who comes to our clubs and events feels welcome and comfortable, not just at our



game, but also in our “bridge family”? That’s a tall order! The answer to those questions is... it takes all of us, every day.

Remember the theme song from *Cheers*... “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name”?

While we are an incredibly diverse group of individuals, we do have Bridge as a common interest. To keep our clubs and units growing and successful so that we can continue to enjoy this wonderful game for years to come, please pitch in. Let’s all make a special effort to be welcoming, kind and considerate to those players new to us and to those players we already know.

Thanks for being a part of our bridge family!

Lauri Laufman, President, Unit 174

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Board Business

HELP WANTED

Catherine Miller is looking for volunteers to welcome new members to our Unit and to remind those who have forgotten to pay their dues. This is a monthly commitment of an hour or so. Contact Catherine at catherinemiller1@gmail.com to volunteer or to request additional information.

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: Patricia Z Asfahl, Don G Bayer, Anne M Bettinger, Christine E Caine, Pinakpani Choudhury, Mary G Fielder, Maggie Fleming, Jean Hines, Martin J Hrachovy, Hasin F Jinna, Bob Joyce, Ann O Knauth, Marci Malinsky, R Kay O Neal, Ying C Pan, Carol Reid, Lynn M Schroth, Nancy K Small, Meiling Zhong



RANK ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Nancy Blackwell, Betty J Friedman, Amy Grossman, Janie S Kobes, Richard G Kobes, Marc L Reiter, Walt T Thome, Joseph Weiss, Judy C Wilson-Wise

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Janice Hardcastle, Kiran Oberoi, Ronald K Perkowski

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Ricky Haikin, Bettie K Hanse, Joseph Tse, Mary Vaughn, Kevin L Vogel

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Robert Boshara, Cindy Cox, Rose Cullivan Hock, Steven Gordon, Dexter Hill

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Geraldine P Christensen, Annette Ehrhardt, Mark Incerto, Edith R Purgason, Joan Schnider, James E Soller

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Darlyn Dusek, Jay Evert, Shirley D Kingsley, Ronnie T Martin

Life Master (128 in Unit 174)

AJ James, Karen M Jones, Lunhui Lin, Bob Mendel

Bronze Life Master (304 in Unit 174)

Lunhui Lin, Sheryl Thomas

Silver Life Master (192 in Unit 174)

Gail E Gillespie, Marvin S Greenfield, Herbert L Kalman, Jill Spence



Ruby Life Master (174 in Unit 174)

Anne W Cox, Val Grady, Mary E McDonald, Robert G Munger

Gold Life Master (92 in Unit 174)

Harry Selldin

Sapphire Life Master (57 in Unit 174)

Mike Doyle, Joyce Park

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News



USA2 INCLUDES HOUSTON PLAYER

Congratulations to **Sally Wheeler** (far left) and the rest of the DISA team (**Disa Eythorsdottir, Janice Molson, Linda Lewis, Lynn Deas, and Cindy Bernstein**), who secured the USA2 spot for the 2019 Venice Cup, part of the [44th World Team Championships](#), which will be held in Wuhan, China, September 14-28. The DISA team played eight hard-fought sets against BJERKAN before emerging victorious, 280-228.

(Photo by Stan Subeck)

SPECIAL GAMES - EXTRA POINTS

May has been designated by the ACBL as [Grassroots FUNd Month](#). Most, if not all, clubs in the Unit are offering Fund games all month. Funds raised are returned annually to the district in which those funds were raised to support the Grand National Teams and North American Pairs. Come out and scoop up some extra points for your success at the table.

SECTIONALS, SECTIONALS, SECTIONALS

Three sectional tournaments are scheduled for the rest of the year:

[Nearly Summer Sectional, June 7-9](#)

The Nearly Summer Sectional is almost upon us. Tournament chairs **Sheryl Thomas** and **Kathleen Malcolmson** will welcome you June 7-9 at the Houston Marriott Westchase. Guest speakers include **Betsy DuBose** on "Opening Leads" and **Julie Halperin** on "Reverse Drury." Start planning now with your partners and teammates!



[Ambitious August Sectional, August 8-11](#)

The August tournament, also 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 the same duplicated boards used in the pairs games. Swiss Team participants will have hand records and can compare results with their pairs-playing friends.

Tournament chairs **Daniel Jackson** and **Clif Rice** are hard at work putting it all together.

[Galveston Fall Sectional, November 1-3](#)

It is going to be a fun weekend at Moody Gardens, Nov 1 -3 with dinner and entertainment offered nightly after a day of bridge on Friday and Saturday! All events on Sunday are regionally rated (extra points) and lunch is included with your entry.

As we have a limited amount of rooms on our block at the special rate of only \$149 per night, please consider securing your reservations soon. For reservations call 1-888-388-8484. The group ID code is ACBL112019. Tournament chairs **Jack LaVigne** and **Cindy Cox** are exploring the possibility of offering chartered motor coach service to and from the tournament. We will have more information about that next month.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

North American Pairs (NAP) club-level qualifier games begin next month 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 WEEK, JUNE 10 - 16

Earn silver points in the comfort of your home club! June 10-16 is STaC Week. "STaC" stands for Sectional Tournament at Clubs. Games during this week are tournament-rated, so masterpoints awarded will be silver rather than the usual black.

THE LONGEST DAY

Clubs around our unit are holding special fundraising games during the week that 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 The Longest Day events can be found at https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/special-events/the-longest-day/.



♣ 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

- ◆ May 22 Workshop: Jacoby 2N & 3N with **Julie Halperin**
- ◆ May 23 "8 is Enough" Swiss Teams
- ◆ May 27 Memorial Day Hot Diggity Dog Game. Meal at 11. Game at 11:55. Please bring a side dish or dessert
- ◆ June 3 Defense Class with **Barbara Phillips**
[Click here to view flyer](#)
- ◆ June 3 Life Master Party for **Mike and Linda Windham**
Reservations are required.
- ◆ June 19 The Longest Day Alzheimer Game
- ◆ June 27-30 499r Tournament. [Click here to view flyer](#)

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ June 11 STaC Game
- ◆ June 13 STaC 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/ 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 Have questions? Contact Club Owner **Jim Warren** at jwarren760@gmail.com or 832-851-4745. Keep an eye on our webpage -www.bridgewebs.com/cypressnw/ - for more details about the classes.

KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Bridge west of the Beltway! Katy Duplicate Club has moved to 222 West Grand Parkway South, Katy, TX 77494 (next to Costco). Come and join us for bridge, beer and BBQ on Wednesdays at 12p. Please note that the Tuesday game has been cancelled. Contact **Robert Lee** at rlee@leekon.net or 713 557 4077 with any questions.



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.

The strats for The Lone Star Bridge Club games are now being done on the average of the pair instead of on the player with the higher number of masterpoints. To help the Day Manager, please know how many masterpoints you have.

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ May 27 Memorial Day Potluck. Food at 11. Game at 12.
- ◆ June 3 North American Pairs (NAP) Game
- ◆ June 6 North American Pairs (NAP) Game
- ◆ June 20 North American Pairs (NAP) Game
- ◆ June 24 North American Pairs (NAP) Game

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 37.48 Masterpoints and **James Sells** (I/N) with 17.77 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Ariel Leibovitz** (Open) with 22 sessions and **James Sells** (I/N) with 21 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ May 27 Memorial Day Game. Hot dogs and cake provided.
Please bring sides, snacks and desserts.
Reservations are required to play that day
- ◆ May 28 Nighttime Mentor Game
- ◆ June 12 Daytime Mentor Game
- ◆ June 21 "8 is Enough" Swiss Teams
- ◆ June 22 The Longest Day Game (details below)
- ◆ June 25 Nighttime Mentor Game

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. Past monthly summaries (three years' worth, at least) are available [here, on the WBA website](#).

Bridge Bulletin **ARTICLE OF THE MONTH**

The May *Bulletin* has several worthy columns to choose from including those by **Colchamiro** (page 26), **Parrish** (page 45) and **Helms** (page 48). We have written our comments on those in our monthly bulletin notes which will be posted to the [WBA site](#).

For the May article of the month, we chose **August Boehm's** column on page 54. It covers how passing can deliver a clear message in several different situations. Many players may not be aware of the power and precision of a pass. Below we discuss the first two examples.

Example 1

You hold: **K Q 8 4 2** | **K J 9** | **A 4 3** | **6 5**

RHO opens 1C, you bid 1S, partner bids 2C (limit raise or better in spades), and RHO doubles. Now what?

If RHO hadn't doubled you would make a bid to explore for game, maybe 2H, as a help-suit game try, or 3S, asking partner to go to 4S if he has more than a limit raise in spades. However, RHO has given you better options by intervening. You no longer *have* to bid as partner now has another bid coming.

Boehm explains the "retreat is weakest" approach. A 2S bid here would show a minimum hand for the overcall, nothing extra. When appropriate, it is a good idea to limit your hand as soon as possible. However, in this case, you have a full opening hand; you are not minimum for your overcall.

So, you would pass, showing something other than a minimum overcall. Recall that you did not double first, so your hand is now defined as somewhere between 10 and the top of your overcall range (usually 15, 16 or 17. It's important that you both know what this number is). Partner will infer your range based on the fact that you did not bail out immediately in 2S. Over to him.

Partner now has the opportunity to bid 2S, to show that he is minimum for his bid, or to bid something else, to show he has extras. If he bids 2S, showing nothing more than the limit raise he already promised (a good 10 to a bad 12), you would pass, as you don't have enough for game. If you are not going to play a game contract, it's always more pleasant to play 2S than 3S. Take advantage of an intervening bid to say something to your partner. Sometimes that "something" looks like nothing.



Example 2

You hold: A Q 9 2 | **K Q 9 5 3** | **VOID** | Q 6 5 4

The auction proceeds as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3D	4C ¹	5D	6C ²
P	P	6D	??

¹4C is a strong bid showing strong clubs and good points – maybe a good 6 card club suit and 17 points. (Don't preempt a preempt; if they are bidding to go down via a preempt, don't beat them to it.) Partner should have full values for this bid as he is in the direct position – he no idea what RHO has or what you have. Were he in the balancing position, he could make this bid with less.

²You love your diamond void, nice club support, first round control in spades and second round control in hearts. You are thinking either 6C or 7C, but you don't have any room to explore and partner did not promise the heart A.

Now what?

The 6D bid gives you the option to explore for 7C that you didn't have before. In this case, pass is a forcing pass with a specific meaning. It promises first round control in diamonds and asks partner to bid 7C if partner has prime cards (CA, CK, HA) and to double their 6D if he does not.

If you had a weaker hand, you would double, telling partner that you would rather defend 6D than play 7C.

1 Major – 3NT?

Playing a "standard" system, a 3N response to partner's 1M opening typically shows 13-15 HCP, two card support for partner's major, and a balanced hand. With three card support, we would almost always play in partner's major. It would be common to make a 2-over-1 (2/1) bid, forcing to game, and support partner's major on our next bid. Holding 13-15 HCP and 3-4-4-2 distribution, if partner opens 1S, we would bid 2D, forcing to game, and then bid spades.

We prefer not to use the standard interpretation of the 3N bid. Instead, we like to check the 3NT red box in the **MAJOR OPENING | RESPONSES** section of the convention card. We refer to that box as "Jacoby 3NT," as that's what it was called when it was explained to us. This call is, of course, alertable.

The call still shows 13-15 HCP; however, now it also shows a hand that is pancake-flat (no voids, singletons or doubletons) with exactly three-card support for partner's major. With four-card support we would make a Jacoby 2NT bid.



A 4333 hand has no ruffing value. Partner will take tricks with his long suit and the partnership's high cards. Partner can now make an intelligent decision about whether to play in his major or in notrump.

This treatment pays off when:

1. The notrump contract makes the same number of tricks as major suit contract. Those extra 10 points are big in match points.
2. It makes it easier for partner to determine if slam is likely, possible or unlikely.

Playing Jacoby 3NT, you can describe your hand accurately by the bids you make – and by those you do not make. For example, assume you hold a 13-15 HCP hand and partner opens 1S. With 3334 (the "4" is anything but spades) distribution, you would bid 3N. Partner will know exactly what you have. With any other distribution, you would make a game-forcing 2/1 bid. Based on partner's next bid you might bid notrump or you might support his suit.

So when we make a 2/1 game-forcing bid and then support partner's major on our next bid, partner knows that we likely have ruffing values. Because we didn't bid 3NT the first time, partner can infer that we do not have 3334 (the "4" is anything but spades) distribution and 13-15 HCP. It is possible, although less likely, that we have 3334 (again, the "4" is anything but spades) distribution and more than 15 HCP. Subsequent bids will clarify the situation.

If you are not playing Jacoby 3 NT, it is often difficult or impossible for opener to know whether or not partner has ruffing values.



THE LONGEST DAY

As a very small part in the battle against Alzheimer's disease, we offer you the exercise below. Answers will be provided next month.

What are the palindromes that fit the clues below?

1. Midday
2. Tier
3. Crazy
4. Father (this has two possible answers)
5. Horn
6. Lady's title
7. Band's job
8. Baby chick sound
9. Fails to work
10. Human body part

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