



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter November 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.

- ◆ [President's Message](#)
- ◆ [Board Business](#)
- ◆ [New Members and Rank Advancements](#)
- ◆ [Unit News](#)
- ◆ [Club News](#)
- ◆ [From the Editors](#)

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

"Goodwill," according to a quick Google search, is defined as "friendly, helpful, or cooperative feelings or attitude". Merriam- Webster defines it as "a kindly feeling of approval and support: benevolent interest or concern".

For the most part, we bridge players tend to exhibit a lot of goodwill. However, as bridge can be extremely competitive, sometimes goodwill takes a back seat to winning.

I was visiting with my friend and fellow board member, **Jack LaVigne** the other day as to how we could better convey the importance of practicing the Bridge Player's Creed, "*Always disclose, never abuse, don't intimidate, and practice active ethics*". He smiled and simply suggested "think of your partner AND opponents as your best friend. In addition to help reduce tension at the table, if friendly and relaxed, it will help you play better". Gosh, I love that!



While Thanksgiving and all the upcoming holidays typically serve as reminders to spread goodwill; please make a commitment as I have, to do this daily. Let's be friendly, caring, forgiving, subscribe to the Bridge Player's Creed and practice ACBL's Top 10 Goodwill Gestures:

- ◆ Greet and Welcome Opponents
- ◆ Always Say, "Director, Please"
- ◆ Lead or Place Dummy before You Write
- ◆ Mentor a New Player
- ◆ Say, "Thank You, Partner"
- ◆ Compliment Opponent's Play
- ◆ Discuss Hands after the Game
- ◆ Accept Defeat and Victory with Grace
- ◆ Leave a Tidy Table
- ◆ Smile Often!

Congratulations go to **Nancy Guthrie**, **Geoff Booth** and **Wilma Booth** who have recently been honored with a lifetime appointment to the [ACBL Eileen Osufsky Goodwill Committee](#) for their service, kindness and actions that exemplify the Bridge Players' Creed.

Lauri Laufman, President, Unit 174
llaufman@texas2211.com

Board Business

CANDIDATES FOR THE 2020 UNIT BOARD ANNOUNCED

Six Unit members, **Dave Becker**, **B (Binnur) Haznedar**, **Greg May**, **Kathleen McDougall**, **Karen Nussbaum**, and **Joe Quinn**, will be competing for the three open slots on the Unit 174 Board of Directors. We encourage you to get to know them when they play at your club. We appreciate their willingness to contribute to the Unit in this way.

We also extend a big thank you to Nominating Committee Chair **Nancy Strohmer** and committee members **Bob Dowlen**, **Steve Reichel**, **Bill Riley** and **Betty Starzec** for their time, effort and much-appreciated work!



IT'S THAT TIME OF (EVERY OTHER) YEAR...

We will be publishing our Unit Directory in January and will begin distributing it during the Lone Star Regional. Members are asked to [log into ACBL](#) and update any incorrect contact information and then [log into our Unit 174 website](#) by December 15 to check your privacy settings.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT NOVEMBER

Our November 2020 Sectional will be held at the Arabia Shriners' Event Center located at 10510 Harwin Drive just inside Beltway 8 and not far from the Marriott Westchase. Many players may recall we used to hold many of our tournaments at the Arabia Shriners' previous location at Brompton and N Braeswood.



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: Laurence A Barker, John W Bauer, Elizabeth Bell, Betty Colandro, Myrtle P Dean, Beverly J Gebhart, Lucie Gysen, Richard L Imlay, Selena D Kindig, Jean E Langdon, Veronique Lhemann, Jeff McKee, Kay Quinn, Gwendolyn D Salama, Steven F Sims, Roberta Tetzlaff, Dorian A Venable, Betty S Walker, and Michael J Wieland

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for October, 2019. An explanation of ranks may be found [on the ACBL website](#).

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Pinakpani Choudhury, June M Cullum, Pat S Esslinger, Pamela A Greenwood, Nan Leavell, Traci McCaskill, Beverly H Price, Earlene Riser, Margaret S Sample, Kristy K Tankersley, Tamara Zurawski



Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Linda K Drake, Betty J Friedman, James W Haylett, Cynthia D Heagy, Kathleen A Naylor, Ying C Pan, Belva L Peacock, Christine M Pillow, Dean D Saunders, Linda D Warren

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Richard T Barski, Mike Davis, James D Gernentz, Sharon Kaplan, Phil G Motuzko, Bill Nash, Debbie L Nash, Jitendra D Shah, Tina J Spera

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Debra R Bray, Francis V Gay, Robert E Lee, Mannie L Magid

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

George E Rosen

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Sandra A Maalouf, Mary L Wells

Life Master (124 in Unit 174)

Robert R Burridge, Brad Chandler, Jane L Joplin

Bronze Life Master (301 in Unit 174)

James E Meade, James C Sells, Kathleen C Stuart

Silver Life Master (186 in Unit 174)

Jeane Crumpler, Carol L Krug, Bob Matlock, Odis W Nolte, Frances H Robbins

Ruby Life Master (174 in Unit 174)

Mike Goldberg, Sharon K Graber, Jessie L Schoppe

Gold Life Master (91 in Unit 174)

Dana C Brown



Sapphire Life Master (59 in Unit 174)
Jack L Stone

Grand Life Master (9 in Unit 174)
Sally D Wheeler

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News

GALVESTON FALL SECTIONAL RESULTS

We had a nice turnout at the Galveston Fall Sectional, co-chaired by **Jack LaVigne** and **Cindy Cox**: 406 players earned a total of 2103.87 masterpoints playing at 435 tables. Thank you all for coming out to play. Unit masterpoint winners in the top ten were: **Jack LaVigne, Joe Quinn, Shawn Quinn, Raleigh Williamson, Harold Copeland, L Laird, and W Lease.**

SALLY WHEELER IS GRAND



Congratulations to **Sally Wheeler**, the Unit's newest Grand Life Master. According to acbl.org, "this is the highest rank in the ACBL. It requires 10,000 Masterpoints and one victory in a North American Bridge Championship ... with no upper Masterpoint restriction." Playing with her husband, **Buddy Hanby**, Sally got her 10,000th point at the Charlotte Halloween Regional on October 31. With partner **Cindy Bernstein**, she played on the team that won the 1986 Wagar Women's Knockout Teams. In 1988, Sally and **Georgiana Gates** won Whitehead Women's Pairs. Well done!

SPECIAL GAMES - EXTRA POINTS

December is the month of upgraded games!
 Grab your partners and make plans to play in the Unit Charity games on December 9th, 10th, 11th, and 13th. Monday and Wednesday games benefit the ACBL Charity; Tuesday and Friday games benefit our local Make-A-Wish.



Earn silver points in the comfort of your own club during our Unit STaC week, December 16th – 22nd. STaC stands for Sectional Tournaments at Clubs and the points awarded for these games are silver.

See you at the tables!

2020 D16 TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

District 16 proudly honors and supports its bridge teachers. New players, many of whom become our students, are the lifeblood of the game, and the teachers who nurture and prepare them deserve our appreciation. In this spirit, the Teacher of the Year award is given annually to an outstanding District teacher. Nominations are now being accepted; any District member may submit a nomination (or two or three...). To nominate a teacher, submit the following information by email to **Buck Buchanan** at rcb722322@gmail.com:

- ◆ Teacher's name
- ◆ Teacher's contact information
- ◆ Brief statement describing why this teacher deserves the honor

Nominees will be asked to provide by December 31 a more complete description of their teaching activities. The 2020 District Teacher of the Year award will be presented at the 2020 Lone Star Regional. We encourage you to promote our Unit educators.

LONE STAR REGIONAL, FEBRUARY 3-9, 2020

Planning for our Unit's flagship event is well underway, with events for all! In addition to a full schedule of games, we are pleased to offer the following:

Supervised play: Tuesday & Saturday, February 4 & 8

On Tuesday and Saturday mornings, our newcomers (those with 0-5 masterpoints) can play in a free supervised play game.

I/N Reception: Tuesday, February 4

I/N players - those with fewer than 300 masterpoints - are invited to a reception on Tuesday after the afternoon session. Details to be provided at a later date.



Director's Refresher Class: Sunday, February 2

Brush up on the basics or clarify the handling of a complex situation. The fee is \$15.00 in advance or \$20 at the door. Please contact **Lauri Laufman** (llaufman@texas2211.com) to register. The class runs from 10 - 4.

***Aces & Knaves*: Saturday, February 8**

We are planning a FREE screening of *Aces & Knaves* at 7pm on Saturday evening, thanks to underwriting by the ACBL Education Fund, District 16 and Unit 174. This film “zooms in on the players, the scandals, and the intense competition inside the world of bridge – the most complex mind sport ever invented.” For a sneak peek: <https://www.acesandknavesthefilm.com>. As the movie is just under an hour long and the night will still be young, we invite you to stick around for our Evening Zip KO at 8:30pm! For those of you who have never played, it is a fast-moving knock-out team game and quite fun. Cost to enter will be only \$5 per person.

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.

APPLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUBS

Holiday parties are on Monday, December 9 and Friday, December 13. Reservations are required for each. Please email the appropriate individual to request a reservation:

- ◆ Monday: **Paul Cuneo** (paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net)
- ◆ Friday: **Brigitte Sandifer** (sandiferdb@gmail.com)

Players must check in for the game by 11:30 am or their reservations will be cancelled. Walk-ins will receive an entry then if space is available.



BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Nov 21: Swiss team "8 is Enough"
- ◆ Nov 28: Club is CLOSED
- ◆ Dec 5: Daytime Mentor game
- ◆ Dec 9: Holiday Party **Reservations required.**
- ◆ Dec 16: Party in honor of **Beverley Cheatham. Reservations required.**

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Dec 3: STaC
- ◆ Dec 5: STaC

Free Class – Every Tuesday from 11:00 to 11:30

The Cypress NW DBC series for the rest of the year will use *Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century*. You do not need to purchase the book to participate.

In the December class, we will cover the final Chapter 8: Strong 2 Club bids. If you have an idea for the next set of classes, please contact **Jeanne Phelps** at jsfphelps@gmail.com.

Details about our location, getting questions answered, or finding a partner can be found at the club website: www.bridgewebs.com/cypressnw.



FORT BEND DBC

The friendly, fun place to play! Two open games every week:

- ◆ Mondays, Rosenberg, 10:15 am
- ◆ Tuesdays, Sugar Land, 9:00 am

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Dec 10: Christmas Party and Club Championship
- ◆ Dec 16: STaC
- ◆ Dec 17: STaC

Games on the dates below are CANCELED:

- ◆ Nov 25
- ◆ Nov 26
- ◆ Dec 23
- ◆ Dec 24
- ◆ Dec 30
- ◆ Dec 31

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Upcoming special games and events:

- ◆ Nov 21: NABC Promotional Game
- ◆ Nov 25: ACBL Charity Game
- ◆ Nov 28: CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- ◆ Dec 2: ACBL Charity Game
- ◆ Dec 5: Club Membership Game
- ◆ Dec 9: Unit Charity Game: ACBL Charity Foundation
- ◆ Dec 10: 299r Game, Unit Charity Make-A-Wish, Free Lesson
- ◆ Dec 12: Unit Club Championship Game

On December 10, before the 299r game, Diamond Life Master **Jeff Kroll** will present a free lesson on hand evaluation.

SOUTHWEST DBC (JCC)

The SWDBC (JCC) will be open on Wednesday Nov, 27th (Thanksgiving Eve) and game will be upgraded UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP. 10:30 A.M. as usual.



SPRING BRANCH DBC

Upcoming special games and schedule changes:

- ◆ Nov 28: CLOSED
- ◆ Dec 5: CLOSED
- ◆ Dec 12: Holiday Party
- ◆ Dec 16: STaC
- ◆ Dec 19: STaC

WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its October awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Joe Quinn** (Open) with 52.39 Masterpoints and **Hasin Jinna** (I/N) with 12.81 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Dolores Aquino** (Open) with 22 sessions and **B Haznedar** (I/N) with 21 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Dec 11: Morning Mentor game
- ◆ Dec 16-22: STaC
- ◆ Dec 17: Evening Mentor game
- ◆ Dec 19: Morning game and Holiday Party. **Reservations required.**
- ◆ Dec 20: Swiss team "8 is Enough"

WBA has supervised play Tuesdays starting at 2:15pm and Thursdays starting at 10:30am.

WBA is hosting two seminars by **Robert Todd**:

- ◆ Fri, Mar 6, 3:00 - 6:00 pm: Defensive Strategies
- ◆ Sat, Mar 7, 9:00 am - noon: Modern Pre-empts

Space is limited. To reserve your spot, email jimmybreihan@comcast.net. Make check payable to WBA. \$60 for one session or \$100 for both.



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 several years of these monthly summaries are available [here, on the WBA website](#).

***Bridge Bulletin* ARTICLE OF THE MONTH**

This month the choice came down between Eddie Kantar's column on playing to make your contract and August Boehm's column on bidding with a void.

We chose Eddie Kantar's column on page 53.

This is a hand scored in IMPs. We prefer IMPs scoring to match point scoring as we like the idea of playing, as declarer, to make contracts, and, as defenders, to defeat them. Match point scoring encourages players to take calculated risks to collect overtricks.

The bidding is fairly routine. Both North and South have lots of losers and from the bidding it's clear that the opponents have about half the high cards.

After the defense takes the heart AK and a heart ruff and the CA is still out, we are very happy not to be in 4H. East returns the C3 after getting the heart ruff. It is now time for the key play.

How do we play the club suit?

Normally we would play the opener for the CA; he is presumed to have the stronger hand.

However, opener has already shown up with the heart AK and responder has something for his 1N response. So the CA could be in either opponent's hand.

We like to make our contracts. In IMPS there is a heavy premium on doing so.

Our only chance to make this contract is to avoid losing a diamond. Therefore, the DK needs to be onside, as there is nowhere for us to pitch the second diamond loser from our hand (the first, obviously, goes on the DA). So we mentally place the DK with West and play for that layout.



If West has the DK, the only way that East can have enough points to respond 1N is if East holds the CA. So, we “give” East that card and play accordingly. We rise with the CK and it wins. We pull trump and lose only one club, two hearts and a heart ruff, making 3H.

Now, if East had held the DK, we were going down no matter what we did. Down two instead of down one is not big stuff in IMPS.

TO PULL TRUMP OR NOT TO; THAT IS THE QUESTION

Below are some points worth consideration when you are trying to decide whether or not to pull trump:

--- 1 ---

If you're not trumping losers in the hand with fewer (or sometimes the same number) of trumps, you usually pull trump. Conversely, if you have losers to trump in the short hand, don't pull trump to the extent where you no longer have trumps left to trump your losers. Players who don't think through the whole deal hope that the losers will disappear magically. They don't. Course there are deals where you can pitch your losers on a long suit (from the hand with the shorter trumps). Pull trump if you can eliminate the losers another way.

--- 2 ---

Do not pull trump if by doing so you will lose control of the hand. Sometimes you'll be playing in a trump suit where you don't have as many trumps as you would like. Or, you will get a bad split where you have to avoid running out of trumps because you need them to prevent the defense from running its long suit.

--- 3 ---

Don't underestimate the defenders. A decent defender can see shortness on the board and can count the number of trump on the board. They will figure out that you plan to trump in dummy and will lead trump at every opportunity to prevent this. Pull only the number of trump you can afford to while setting up your dummy to ruff the losers. You may have to decide between leaving some opponents' trump out, so that you can set up your dummy ruffs, and the risk that the opponents will use those outstanding trump to ruff your winners in other suits. If it's possible to discard the losers on a long suit, do that, rather than ruffing in dummy.



--- 4 ---

Does it look like the opponents are about to ruff your winners? If so, you almost have to pull trump. If they lead a suit you have in which you are long, it's a good chance the lead is a singleton and the ruff is coming.

--- 5 ---

If it seems unlikely that the opponents are ruffing any time soon, and you have a two-way finesse in the trump suit (usually for the queen), delay playing trump until you have explored as much as possible so that you can make an intelligent decision as to which way to finesse. Sometimes you can tell by discards and high cards played who is more likely to have the missing honors. Sometimes their body language will help you.

Examples

Don't pull trump until you've ruffed your small spade (then play a small trump toward your KQT):

6 D

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♠ | 2♥ | 2♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 4♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

N Robot
 ♠AK6
 ♥KQ107542
 ♦82
 ♣5

W Robot
 ♠QJ984
 ♥AJ6
 ♦109643
 ♣

E Robot
 ♠1073
 ♥8
 ♦Q7
 ♣QJ108764

S texashen
 ♠52
 ♥93
 ♦AKJ5
 ♣AK932

4♥ North
 NS: 0
 EW: 0



Fortunately, East led the S5. It would be hopeless if they took three heart tricks immediately. Pull trump as fast as you can. Then take the diamond finesse, as you need a third diamond winner on which to pitch a losing heart. It's a free shot; if it doesn't work you'll pitch a losing club later. But it works.

| 7 D | N Robot ♠KQ1074 ♥543 ♦106 ♣A105 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH | | | | 1♦ | Dbl | 1♠ | 2♣ | 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
|---|--|---|------|-------|------|-------|--|--|--|----|-----|----|----|----|------|----|------|----|------|------|------|--|
| | WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1♦ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dbl | 1♠ | 2♣ | 2♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W Robot ♠J82 ♥AKQ9 ♦82 ♣Q843 | E Robot ♠5 ♥1062 ♦Q9754 ♣K762 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4♠ North NS: 0 EW: 0 | S texashen ♠A963 ♥J87 ♦AKJ3 ♣J9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Don't pull trump until you find out if you need to trump a club. They led the S3. I went up with the A and took a ruffing finesse in spades. Then I led a low club to the Q, and East made it easy for me by rising with the CA. Because now know that I do not have to ruff a club, I can pull trumps.

| 8 D | N Robot ♠4 ♥KQJ75 ♦A82 ♣KJ43 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 4♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
|--|---|---|------|-------|------|-------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|------|------|--|
| | WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2♦ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 4♥ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W Robot ♠K985 ♥6 ♦KQ53 ♣10765 | E Robot ♠1063 ♥10832 ♦974 ♣A98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4♥ North NS: 0 EW: 0 | S texashen ♠AQJ72 ♥A94 ♦J106 ♣Q2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
texas.blue.hen@gmail.com