



Unit 174 Newsletter September 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

Growing up, I was taught by my family to give where possible and volunteer as time allowed to charities and organizations near to my heart.

When I started playing bridge, it pleased me immensely knowing that our bridge community is so charity minded. Aside from the numerous non-profits that many of us each volunteer and support, it is so cool that a portion of our entry fees are allocated at certain sanctioned bridge games to go to a local charity, national charity or one of ACBL's funds (grass roots, education, international or junior fund).

Many of our unit clubs hold their own special club charity games. And speaking of clubs... because of ACBL's partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, our clubs ran special games and activities during "The Longest Day" in June and raised over \$20,000 for Alzheimer's research and care.

Each year at the Regional, we present a check on behalf of the unit to a designated charity. Our 2019 charity designee is Make-A-Wish and in both 2018 and 2017, it was SEARCH. It is now time to submit your designated charity suggestions to become our Unit 174 Charity of 2020. So please reach out to **Nancy Strohmer**, our charity coordinator at nastrohmer@yahoo.com with your suggestion along with why that charity should be considered by October 31.

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



Board Business

Unit 174 is providing Intermediate/Newcomer Ambassadors for First Time Tournament Attendees.

What is an I/N Ambassador?

This is an ACBL Player with 5-299 Masterpoints who will be available as a one-time partner for games during regional and sectional tournaments. The I/N ambassador is ready to play with a 299er first-time tournament attendee who does not have a partner but wants to begin playing tournament Bridge. We hope that the First-Timer will have a great time, learn a little about tournament Bridge and find a regular partner who enjoys the high energy of these large events!

How the system works

A first-time tournament attendee with fewer than 300 Masterpoints may go to the I/N Table and register for a Free Play (good for one game). If the First-Timer came with a partner then they will proceed with their Free Play Coupon to the entry fee area and receive their entry.

If the First-Timer does not have a partner, he or she notifies the I/N Table Staff that a partner will be needed. If another First-Timer shows up, they will be paired together. About 15 minutes before a game is to start, if no other single First-Timer shows up, the Ambassador will partner the First-Timer for that one game.

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: **Romae E Bush, Scot Clark, Jim R Combs, Christopher A Cowan, Jan B Davis, Viki Magriso, Bill Rankin, Marlene Rankin, Andrew C Remson, Mike M Sanati, Rupa Shah, Karim Shah, Mary P Tompkins, Susie Wagner, Anita West.**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Rita P Armstrong, Jim R Combs, Myrna Fritz, Gerald Jaffe, Carolyn Myers



Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Helen Danish, Dwight J Evans Jr, Wolfgang G Horn, Craig P Howard, Hasin F Jinna, Pam Johnson, Gretchen Y Lindquist, Baines Manning, Marie Underdown, Cheryl Walters, Scott Yoder

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Michael W Abbott, Roger O Burrows, Wayne Caldwell, Larry Hsing, John Magyari, Sarah P Springer, Darrell E Way

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Bhagvanti Das, Carol Ferguson, Julia A Hill, Cindy A Skeels, Pamela Vincent, Becky Vogel, Nathan W Yee

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Judith P Britton, Mary P Dodson, Weston O Frazier, Helene Gersch, Nancy R Reingol

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

Carol M McCord

Life Master (129 in Unit 174)

Cynthia A Bell, Vicki Dailey, Janet Siefert

Bronze Life Master (295 in Unit 174)

Vicki Dailey

Silver Life Master (186 in Unit 174)

Kristy H Garrison, Aruna Sane

Ruby Life Master (176 in Unit 174)

Anne A Adams, Lynne E Andress, Hugh Humphries, Ima Ruth Wood

Gold Life Master (90 in Unit 174)

Debi A Balter, Charles Collins

Sapphire Life Master (60 in Unit 174)

Stephen L Reichek

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!



174 Unit News

NANCY STROHMER WINS D16 JACOBY AWARD



Nancy Strohmer is this year's recipient of the Oswald and James Jacoby Service Award. Established in 1982, the award honors volunteers who have worked diligently at the unit level and risen to recognition at the district level after many years of outstanding service. It is District 16's premier Service Award.

Nancy has served as President of the board of Unit 174 twice during her six years on the board. Under Nancy's direction, the marketing effort to bring the Lone Star Regional back over 3,000 tables has ensured that the district will maintain its additional regional. Her work on the unit board has earned

her the respect of not only its members but brought her recognition from each ACBL President who has visited the Lone Star Regional.

Nancy joined the District 16 Board in February, 2014 as Charity Coordinator. That year the district was awarded \$30,000 from the ACBL Charity Foundation in grant money. Nancy continues to chair the Charity Committee organizing district-wide charity games and in 2021 the district will once again receive money from the ACBL Charity Committee. Nancy is Vice President of the ACBL Charity Committee and also serves as First Vice President of the District Executive Committee.

Nancy was a key player in the establishment of the District 16 Teacher Appreciation Day. Her dedication to the growth of bridge and its players is evident by her interest in all levels of promoting teaching the game and reaching out to new players. Her commitment includes sending her grandchildren to summer bridge camps. They are now junior players.

Nancy is known for all these accomplishments and for her warm smile and gracious heart. Congratulations Nancy on this well-deserved honor!

SOCIAL DUPLICATE BRIDGE at CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB

Saturday, Sept 21, 4:00-6:30pm

An energetic team of volunteers at Clear Lake Bridge Club (16614 Sea Lark Rd) are looking forward to hosting Saturday's Social Duplicate Bridge Event for Unit 174 members and their guests! Bring your friends who would like an introduction to bridge or who are already social bridge players for a fun, informal event.



This FREE event includes a 30 minute “Snacks and Chat” so everyone can meet and make new friends. **Dave Glandorf** will present a short General Introduction to Bridge for new players. After playing some duplicate style bridge, stick around to try your luck at Bridge Bingo.

[Click here for the event flyer.](#)

Event Rescheduled at BCoH and WBA

Due to weather conditions this week affecting volunteers, participating members and guests, both Bridge Club of Houston (BCoH) and Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) have decided to reschedule this event at a later date.

Members and guests previously planning to go to either BCoH or WBA are welcome to come on down and join the fun at Clear Lake.

SPECIAL GAMES - EXTRA POINTS

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

UNIT STAC WEEK, October 7-13

Earn silver points in the comfort of your home club! October 7-13 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.

GALVESTON FALL SECTIONAL

At the Galveston Fall Sectional, November 1-3, there will be lots to do, even for your friends and family who do not play bridge. There will be dinner followed by evening entertainment on Friday and Saturday. On Friday, Harry Maurer will deliver a Comedy & Magic performance. On Saturday, there will be a Casino party.

Reservations for dinner and entertainment are required (\$20 per person per event). Please make out and mail checks to **Dianna Gittelman** at 2027 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027.

Free Charter buses are scheduled to leave Westside Bridge Academy on Thursday at 4:00 and Friday at 12:00 with return trips on Saturday and Sunday after the game. Reservations are required and should be submitted to **Dianna Gittelman** at frogus2@gmail.com by October 15.

On Sunday all games will be regionally rated (more silver points than usual per session) and lunch will be provided free of charge.

We are again providing ambassadors for first-time I/N attendees. Please refer to the **Board Business** section for more details.



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

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ 26-Sep "8 is Enough" Swiss Team
499r Tournament ([flyer](#))
- ◆ Oct 3-6 Open games on Thursday and Friday at 10:00am
- ◆ Oct 7-12 STaC week
- ◆ 14-Oct Membership Appreciation Day
- ◆ 17-Oct Daytime Mentor/Mentee Game

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Oct 1 Club Appreciation Pairs Game
- ◆ Oct 3 Club Appreciation Pairs Game

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

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

September sessions focus on Chapter 5: Minor Suit Opening Bids and Responses. This includes: opening rebids and raising partners to one of a minor suit, other responses to one of a minor, and handling interference.

In the October class, we move to Chapter 6: The Subsequent Auction. This includes: opener's non-forcing and forcing and responder's non-forcing vs. forcing rebids.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

DLM **Jeff Kroll** arrives early on days he is playing to answer bridge questions. Players may also send bridge questions to Jeff at texas.blue.hen@gmail.com or put them in a box at the club. Future dates of Jeff's lessons will be announced through the club's email.



Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Sep 30 Life Master Party for Helen Wren and Rita Hanlin
Pot luck lunch at 11; game at noon.
- ◆ Oct 7 STaC Game
- ◆ Oct 8 299r STaC Game
- ◆ Oct 10 STaC Game
- ◆ Oct 14 Unit Club Championship Game

WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Westside Bridge Academy (WBA) announced its August awards for success and participation at the club. The Most Masterpoint winners are **Chris Kollenberg** (Open) with 36.16 Masterpoints and **Ava Noble** (I/N) with 11.51 Masterpoints. The Most Frequent players were **Betty Freedman** (Open) with 23 sessions and **Ava Noble** (I/N) with 22 sessions. Congrats to all!

Upcoming special games:

- ◆ Oct 16 Daytime Mentor Game
- ◆ Oct 18 "8 is Enough" Team Game
- ◆ Oct 22 Evening Mentor Game

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



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 chose the first deal of Eddie Kantar's Test Your Play column on page 59 as the article of the month. As it is so frequently, the main theme of the discussion is to take all your chances.

You are declaring 7H against silent opponents. West leads the H2; East follows with the HT. Taking all your chances entails identifying your combined assets and then figure out in what order to use them. The D7 is the loser that needs to go.

A novice declarer will just take the diamond finesse, and that will be that. It will work 50% of the time (there are no clues from the bidding – it wasn't even given). If it works, you are a genius; if not, you are... unlucky?



Certainly the diamond finesse is on your list of assets to try to make the grand, but it's not the only asset on the list. The longer list is:

- ◆ Your five-card club suit in dummy. If the missing clubs split 4-2, which they do over 60% of the time, that losing diamond can be pitched on the long club.
- ◆ The 50%/50% aforementioned diamond finesse
- ◆ The SQ could be doubleton, in which case it will drop under the AK, making your SJ good. Dummy's two losing diamonds (D9, DQ) can now be discarded on the long spades, assuming the SJ is good – which it will be over 20% of the time).

If you take your chances in the correct order, your grand slam is an 85% probability instead of a 50% flyer. Accordingly the diamond finesse is your last resort, and not your first.

So ...

1. Cash the club A and get ready to see if the clubs split.
2. Play a heart to the Q (pulling their last trump)
3. Ruff a club
4. Play the AK of spades, discarding a diamond; hope the SQ drops
5. Ruff a club
6. Ruff the low spade; hope the SQ drops
7. Ruff a club
8. If the SQ hasn't dropped and clubs are not 4-2 or better, only then should declarer fall back on the diamond finesse.

The "best of the rest" were, in page number order:

- ◆ The Bidding Box Problem 4, Bridge Bulletin Auction: avoiding the poor 3NT contract to land in 3C. (page 38)
- ◆ Alder: unblocking the CJ so that you can get two club winners with the marked club finesse. (page 44)
- ◆ Parrish: planning ahead to most accurately describe your hand when a perfect bid is not available. (page 45)
- ◆ Todd: the importance of intermediate cards (page 46)
- ◆ Berg: limiting your hand and letting partner take charge (page 47)
- ◆ Cohen: after a 1S – 1 NT, first round of bidding, when you have six spades and four hearts, it is usually correct to bid 2H on the second bid. (page 49)
- ◆ Boehm: avoiding slow losers, creating entries, avoiding a foreseeable ruff. (page 54)
- ◆ Bergen: hand evaluation. Aces are undervalued; tens are often worth something. Queens and jacks are overvalued. An unsupported jack is often worthless. (page 57)
- ◆ Stewart: matchpoint vs IMPs strategy. (page 62)



AN EASY FALSE CARD

Last month we deceived the defenders. Turnabout is fair play; this month we are looking at an opportunity for the defenders to deceive the declarer. South is declaring a notrump contract. One of the suits is divided as shown:

	A K Q 9 8 7	
6 5		J T 4
	3 2	

From the declarer's perspective, there are five cards "out." That is, the defenders hold five cards. Five missing cards will split as evenly as possible about 2/3 of the time. So the proper way to play this suit is to play the A K Q, which will pick up all 6 tricks over 2/3 of the time. Most declarers will do just that, especially if East plays the 4 under one of the honors.

However, a good defender will play the J (or possibly the T). Now declarer has to guess. We love to make declarer guess when we're on defense – especially if he guesses wrong. When East plays the J, it looks (to declarer) that either East started with the singleton J or the doubleton J T.

Declarers familiar with the principle of restricted choice know that it is more likely that when one of two missing touching honors shows on the first trick, it is more likely to be a singleton than a doubleton. So, if East plays the J, it is more likely that East has the singleton J and West started with the T 6 5. Declarer will often return to his hand and take a losing finesse against the T.

Course, experienced declarers looking at wily defenders like us will correctly suspect that we are false carding. So they may guess correctly. However, as good as they may be, they still have to guess because we would have certainly played the J if it were a singleton. Declarers guess wrong some of the time. (Although they will never guess wrong if you break tempo and hesitate before playing the Jack. It's illegal and unethical to mislead declarer by hesitating and then playing a singleton).

Keep them guessing!

Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
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