



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter December 2020



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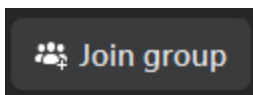
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Please visit the Unit 174 Website (www.acblunit174.org) to view updated information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



President's Message

The District 16 *Scorecard* publication is on hold because there are no tournaments to report on. Wondering what is going on in the District? District 16 has created a Facebook group to keep our members informed.



To access the group, click [here](#) or log into your Facebook account and search for **ACBL District 16**. Once there, click **Join group**, just below the cover photo.

Read about what is going on in the district. Lots of interesting bridge stories are posted.

Do you have children that are going crazy being cooped up?



Have them download the Tricky Bridge app onto their phone or iPad. It's a fun game to play and takes them from rank beginner (never played before) to a more advanced level. Great idea to increase our membership over the long haul.

Unit 174 wishes you all a safe and Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and New Year.

Until next year, may your stockings be overflowing with matchpoints.

Jack LaVigne, President, Unit 174

jacklavigne@att.net

Board Business

THANKS, HAIL AND FAREWELL

Thanks go to Nancy Guthrie who has filled our board vacancy and will serve until April, 2021.

We are also grateful to **Joe Quinn, Arthur Giovannangeli, Tom Hogle, Thomas Rush** and **Ralda St. Pierre** for their service on the nominating committee. They have produced a stellar list of candidates: **Dave Becker, Bill Keihnhoff, Carol Lombardino, Syed Raza Naqvi, Thomas Rush** and **Eric Watson**. Watch our website in the upcoming months for more information about the candidates.

A note of appreciation to **Bill Riley** who served as the Unit Club Manager. Thank you, Bill. **Lauri Laufman**, among her many other duties, has accepted the Unit Club Manager position.

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: **Eugene Core, Danielle G Donnelly, David Endelman, Jacob E Evans, Raquel Fernandez, Sanford B Kahn, Elaine B McPike, David C Payne, Dianne Punch, Walter K Richeson, Ellen T Rochelle, Dipika Varia, Joy D Warren.**



RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for November, 2020. An explanation of ranks may be found at [on the ACBL website](#).

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Richard C Dickson, Billie Montgomery

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Judith S Barr, Marilyn Beal, Elizabeth A Caballero, Susan Cooksey, Leonard L Ferguson, Betsy E Himmel, Tamara Zurawski

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Charles Carson, Susan Carson, Robert M Ross

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Anil K Bharani, Jennifer J Boaz, Laura L Hayes, Pam Johnson, George Marchand, Leah Rae Marchand

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Robert Boshara, Patricia Freeman, Linda K McCasland, Carol H Teufel

Life Master (108 in Unit 174)

Gerhard B Ohlendorf, Bruce R Weiner

Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

Sam Khayatt, Carol Meade, Yvonne M Pierce, Kris Sankaran, James C Sell

Sapphire Life Master (61 in Unit 174)

Dolores C Aquino, Gabriel Perry

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!



174 Unit News

ONLINE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Making online bridge lessons more engaging and effective is the purpose of a new “how to teach” workshop jointly sponsored by ACBL and the Education Foundation, and in consultation with the ABTA. The first class will be on Jan 11 and 12 and the cost is \$125. Upon course completion District 16 will reimburse you the \$125. [For more information click here.](#)

SILVER POINTS IN JANUARY

ACBL has published the 2021 Online Event Schedule through June, 2021. There is a Silver Linings Week January 18-14 and there are three opportunities for upgraded points in February. [Click here for the full schedule.](#)

DIRECTOR COURSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Online director certification courses will now be offered on a quarterly basis. The first ACBL Club Director Course will be taught January 23-24 from 10 am to 7 pm. Cost is \$50. The main emphasis of the course is to be able to direct at the club level. Contact Melody Euler (melody.euler@acbl.org) for more information.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

The following information has been provided by the ACBL regarding the North American Pairs event:

- 2020 National Final, scheduled for Columbus, was cancelled
- All pairs who qualified for 2020 National Final are eligible to play in 2021 National Final
 - Communication with these players will begin in January
- 2021 National Final to be played in March 2021, either at St. Louis NABC or online
- Club Qualifying for 2022 National Final begins June 1, 2021 (Club qualifiers may be in-person or online)
- All other conditions regarding substitutions, event formats, entry fees, subsidies, etc., will be as originally established
- Any National Finals played online are subject to the provisions of Appendix O and other possible supplemental Conditions of Contest. Appendix O can be found at: https://www.acbl.org/tournaments_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/conditions-of-contest/



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- As with other National events being played online, any National Finals played online will have a 20% reduction in masterpoint awards, award no Platinum points, and not count toward GLM eligibility
 - The 2019-2020 NAP Conditions of Contest is located at:
<http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>

ELECTION SECTIONAL - CORRECTION

The date of the Election Sectional was incorrectly reported in the last newsletter. It is planned for April 16-18, 2021, at the Arabia Shriners, 10510 Harwin Dr., Houston.

SUPERVISED PLAY SUSPENDED

The Unit 174 0-20 mp Online Supervised Play has been suspended.

♣ 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.

Most Houston area bridge clubs are currently closed, but several have an online presence (a "virtual club" or "vClub") on Bridge Base Online (BBO). You can support your club by playing on BBO (www.bridgebase.com). If you play at one of the Houston virtual clubs (see list below), a majority of the table fees go to that club and you get black (Club) points.

If your club does not have an online virtual club, ACBL is offering three special daily online pairs game where you can win black (Club) points -- at 9am, 4:10pm and 6:30pm (Central time). And the majority of your table fee will be returned to your local club. Look for the ACBL SYC games on BBO.

Houston vClub schedules are listed below.



APPLE DBC

Regular schedule:

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon, Wed, Fri at 3:00pm
- ◆ Limited Pairs 299r: Mon, Wed, Fri at 2:45pm

Holiday Schedule: No games on December 25 and January 1.

Through your play in the Apple virtual club game over \$30,000 has been raised for local food banks. This means that over 100,000 meals have been provided to fight hunger since our virtual club held its first game on March 30!!! Thanks to all of our players!!!

BBO Search Term: **Apple**

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

Regular schedule:

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon–Fri at 10:20am
Sat, Sun at 12 noon
Tue, Thu, Sat at 7:00pm
- ◆ Limited Pairs 99r: Thu at 10:00am
199r: Mon, Wed, Fri at 10:00am; Sun at 11:50am
299r: Tue at 10:00am

Mentor games are offered on the first and third Monday evenings of each month. Please contact **Roxie Walker** (roxie_w@hotmail.com) if you would like to play in one of them.

Holiday Schedule: Regular schedule on December 24 and 25. Games on New Year's Day will run on a Sunday schedule: 199r at 11:50am and Open Pairs at 12 noon.

Members of BCOH are now eligible to vote online for the election to three slots on the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting, for all eligible members, will be held on Zoom on January 9, 2020 at 3 p.m. See BCOH website for details.

BBO Search Term: **BCOH**



Free Mini-Lesson

Bert Onstott gives a FREE 30-minute mini-lesson every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:00 via Zoom. It's open to anyone, but geared to newer players. We will be continuing a series on "Card Play Technique" this week.

Bert sends out an email invitation every Tuesday morning; if you would like to participate, please send an email to bertonstott@comcast.net asking to be added to the invite list.

It will be over in plenty of time for you to play in the Tuesday morning 299r game.

Mentor/Mentee Games *(Schedule change)*

WBA holds Mentor/Mentee games twice a month on the second Wednesday morning at 10:15 and on the **second and fourth Monday** evenings at 7:00 pm. Both games last about two hours.

Mentees are those with less than 300 masterpoints, Mentors have over 300. If you would like to be included, let **Katherine Onstott** know (email kjonstott@comcast.net) and she will pair you with a suitable partner.

The entry fee is \$10 for the pair, which the Mentee is encouraged to pay.

For more information, visit <http://www.westsidebridgeacademy.com/Mentor-Mentee.php>.

New Class: Killing Defense with Joe Quinn

The intent of this course is to provide students with comprehensive and consistent tools to optimize your defensive methods. This series is geared to intermediate and advanced students and will create a solid foundation for this important area of the game. It is a repeat of the class held earlier this year and is subject to suitable attendance.

When: Six sessions on Tuesdays from 3-5pm beginning January 12

Where: Online, using Zoom

Cost: \$200

Registration: Email valquinn1950@gmail.com or call 713-444-5034

More information: [Click here for a printable flyer.](#)

BBO Search Term: **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 few years' summaries are available [here, on the WBA website](#).

Bridge Bulletin ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

The December, 2020, *Bridge Bulletin* article of the month is Michael Berkowitz's "Lessons Learned" on page 46. He covers a pedestrian auction and a pedestrian hand where the defender should find a penalty double. We think that most players wouldn't.

♠10 5 ♥A Q 10 9 ♦5 4 3 ♣K 10 9 8			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East (You)</i>	<i>South</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	?	

Hand 1

Why should East (you) know to double?

South has a good 16 or 17 points because he opened 1N (15-17) and accepted a game invitation. North has a good eight-point or nine-point hand because he had enough to invite. Therefore, NS holds 24-26 points. It is a close game without extra values.

North bid Stayman and didn't like spades, so he has hearts and no more than three spades. Your hearts are great and they are sitting behind North's hearts. As long as you are not end-played, North won't take a heart trick.

Since you don't have spades and North doesn't have spades, it's likely that partner (West) will have the spades behind South. Sounds like everything is going to be place wrong for declarer and great for defense.

A double against the 3NT contract is usually a Lightner double, asking for dummy's first-bid (or implied) suit – hearts. You want a heart lead.



♠5 ♥A76 ♦A10876 ♣J1098

West	North	East (You)	South
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	?	

Hand 2

Why should East (you) know to double?

NS has a double fit in spades and diamonds. You are on lead, holding five diamonds to the A. Partner is almost certainly void in diamonds; at most he has a singleton.

You plan to cash your ♦A and give partner a ruff with the ♦T. The ♦T is a suit preference lead telling partner to get back to your hand with the higher of the two non-trump suits – hearts. If you held the ♣A, you would give partner a ruff with your smallest diamond.

You plan on taking your two aces and giving partner two diamond ruffs before they even get in. They will be down 1.

Other articles

Other articles that were considered:

- ♦ "Now What" by Steve Weinstein (p.18). When to raise 1H/S to 2H/2S with three-card support
- ♦ "Product Reviews" (p. 20), Paul Linxwiler reviews two "Break out of the Pack" books by Danny Roth. The declarer play example shows that by ducking you cut communications between the defenders and kept the dangerous hand off lead. The defense example shows the need to keep parity with dummy's long suit – even when it means pitching high cards in other suits.
- ♦ "Parrish the Thought" by Adam Parrish (p. 43). Parrish suggests that newer players politely ask experienced players about hands played by both. Parrish also offers to make the explanation himself.
- ♦ "Mike Bridge Lesson" by Mike Lawrence (p. 52). Cash your winners before cross-ruffing the hand.
- ♦ "Better Bridge with Bergen" by Mary Bergen (p.55). When to promote a hand and open 2NT.



- ◆ "Boehm on Bridge" by August Boehm (p. 56). Count tricks, not points, when partner shows a distributional two-suiter.
- ◆ "Mike's Advice" by Mike Lawrence (p. 58). When to hold up your winner in a suit contract.

DOUBLE FITS, MORE TRICKS

The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Board:** 8
- North (Robot):** ♠1094, ♥4, ♦AK9863, ♣1062
- West (Robot):** ♠A76, ♥J9763, ♦J5, ♣A93
- East (Robot):** ♠52, ♥K102, ♦Q2, ♣KJ8754
- South (texashen):** ♠KQJ83, ♥AQ85, ♦1074, ♣Q
- Bidding History:**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
- Score:** 4♠ South, NS: 0, EW: 0

	North	South	
Textbook weak 2♦ bid; six to the AK with nothing outside	2♦	2♠	Looking for a spade fit. Know we have a nine-card diamond fit but don't want to miss a major-suit fit. We don't bid 2N, asking about a feature; we are looking for three spades.
Three-card support.	3♠	4♠	<p>We have an eight-card spade fit and a nine-card diamond fit.</p> <p>When North bid 2♦, those three little diamonds went from being a huge liability to being a big asset.</p> <p>The ♥AQ is worth more than six and we have a second-round club control.</p>

West leads the ♦J, looking for a ruff. Doubletons are OK leads against a trump contract, but they are not nearly as good as singletons. In this case, since West has the Ace of trumps, it looks to be a stand out lead.

West knows that South must have some diamonds because South must be able to handle a 3♦



rebid by North, if North does not have three spades. So, West is hoping to give partner a diamond ruff after winning the ♠A. Good plan, but it doesn't work on this deal.

Declarer wins the ♦A and leads a low spade. West wins the ♠A, then cashes the ♣A before it disappears on the long diamond suit. Once declarer gets back in, he draws trump and runs the diamonds. Even the heart finesse, though not needed, would succeed. It's all over. Declarer takes:

- 6 diamonds
- 4 spades
- 1 heart
- 11 tricks, total



Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
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