



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter

June 2020



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) to view updated information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.

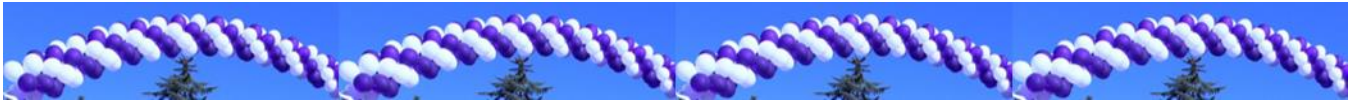


President's Message

One of the key goals discussed in our Annual Planning meeting was how to Preserve and Promote Bridge. Talking about this made me realize that I have played duplicate bridge for half a century! I asked myself "Why have I played for so many years?"

I would like to share with you a short story which partially answers that question. In 1972 I had played for about a year and amassed the impressive total of one (1) masterpoint. **Jim Brister**, an older gentleman who was at least 35, took me under his wing. I lived in El Paso and he asked me if I would like to drive to Odessa and play in their Sectional Sunday Swiss team. Jim was a master player and I gratefully said "Sure, what's a Swiss team?"

Things had been going well and we won the first six matches (back in the day we played win/loss rather than victory points). We played a good team the seventh round and I will never forget this hand:



<i>Jim</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>Mike</i>
2H	X	3H	P
P	X	XX	4D
P	P	X	

Holding the club, A and the diamond AQ, I led a heart (from three). Dummy was close to broke. Declarer won and knocked out my club A. I returned a heart, won by declarer, who went to the dummy and led a diamond to his K.

I won the diamond A, cashed the diamond Q and was planning to lead a heart to my partner (down four, I computed) when the opponents asked, "What are you doing?" I was puzzled. Turns out I had played the diamond Q under the diamond K and led the diamond A out of turn. The director was called. On the run of the clubs I had to throw away the diamond A!

4N doubled making four was -810. My face turned a bright crimson red. We lost the match but what happened next was priceless. Rather than getting upset, Jim put his arm around me and said, "Don't worry about it. Get back in the saddle and let's win the last match."

Jim's kind words enabled me to regain my composure.

There are several lessons to be learned here:

- ♦ Don't play too fast
- ♦ Be kind to your partner
- ♦ Mentor an up-and-coming player

If we could all nurture new players the way Jim did, I am convinced that our membership would grow.

Oh, and how did we do in the event? We won the last round, ended up tied for first and my masterpoint total skyrocketed to seven.

Until next month, may all your finesses be onside.

Jack LaVigne, President, Unit 174

jacklavigne@att.net



Board Business

The election of our new Unit 174 board members was completed on June 6. Congratulations to **Greg May, Kathy McDougall** and **Karen Nussbaum** who were elected to serve.

- ◆ **Brigitte** and **Danny Sandifer** for once again performing election judge duties
- ◆ Outgoing board members **Nancy Guthrie, David Henke** and **Nancy Strohmer** whose service was greatly appreciated
- ◆ **Nancy Strohmer** who stepped in to replace **Daniel Jackson** when he had to resign and who has agreed to serve as Unit 174 Charity Coordinator
- ◆ All of you for your patience and cooperation in the unusual voting process this year

At the June board meeting the following officers were elected:

- ◆ President **Jack LaVigne**
- ◆ Vice President **Karen Nussbaum**
- ◆ Secretary **Joyce Gore**

The following appointments were made:

- ◆ District Representative **Lauri Laufman**
 - ◆ Education Liaison **Betty Starzec / Kathy McDougall**
 - ◆ GNT Coordinator **Kathy McDougall**
 - ◆ I/N Coordinator **Kathy McDougall**
 - ◆ NAP Coordinator **Greg May**
 - ◆ New Player Services **Kathleen Malcolmson**
 - ◆ STaC Coordinator **Karen Nussbaum**
 - ◆ Supply Coordinators **Clif Rice / Greg May**
 - ◆ Technology **Greg May**
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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: **John R Boettiger, Shelagh Brown, Nancy H Fisher, Sylvia Greene, Abu R Hasan, John M Higbie, Sheila Hulme, Jan McConnell, Slava Nadvoretskiy, Cindy S Obermeyer**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for May, 2020. An explanation of ranks may be found at www.acbl.org.

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Elizabeth A Eisenach, Beverly J Gebhart, Abu R Hasan, Mike E Holy, Clark King, Nicki R Lamey, Aisha C May, Joseph E Rogers, Corinne L Smith, William P Sullivan, Tom Washenfelder, Jane L Wood

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Carolyn Elliott, Pat S Esslinger, Laura L Hayes, Lynn L Hershey, Patricia A Holy, Donna Scott, Smita R Shah, John M Williams

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Teresa Becker, Tia N Budde, Loretta S Core, Luke Descours, Jack C Easter, Wayne L Fenton, Michael Linkins, Don Mendel, Richard Napientek

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Janet C Burroughs, Paula M Daly, Pam A Geishauser, Terry K McGarrity, Lunette V Stacy, Geraldine Woolf

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Paula W Gay, Jane P Lawson

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints)

William M Shepherd



Life Master (114 in Unit 174)

Darlyn Dusek, Adrienne H Juno, Edith R Purgason

Bronze Life Master (293 in Unit 174)

David A Badertscher, Thomas H Zimmerman

Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

Karen M Baer, Charo Barnette, Sandra G Jackson, Lauri Laufman, Gay W Rod

Ruby Life Master (173 in Unit 174)

Beverly Fanarof, Tom Hogle, Alan I Zane

Gold Life Master (96 in Unit 174)

Christoph F Eick, Carol L Lombardino, Mark G Meigs, Joe H Nance, Raleigh S Williamson

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

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LONGEST DAY(S)

The Longest Day will last two days (Sat-Sun, Jun 20-21). Sanction fees paid to ACBL for virtual club games on those two days will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association. One-half of the BBO fees for virtual games will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association. In the past seven years, more than six million dollars has been donated to this cause by the ACBL.

And what's in it for you? Players will receive a 100% bonus (instead of the usual 50%) on BBO points won on those two days.

Check out the [club section](#) to see what the unit virtual clubs are doing for the Longest Day(s).



ENDLESS SUMMER TOURNAMENT, JUNE 25-28

ACBL is again offering the opportunity to win gold and red masterpoints online! The second regionally-rated online event will be held on BBO with four sessions per day. There are many different kinds of events -- single session, double session, side series -- and many different stratifications of each. [Click here for the full schedule.](#)

AWESOME AUGUST SECTIONAL AND I/N REGIONAL

The Awesome August Sectional is currently scheduled to take place August 6-9 at the Marriott Westchase. Concurrent with the sectional, there will be an I/N Regional for NLM players with fewer than 750 points. Start planning now to scoop up some silver, red or gold!

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

Just a quick reminder that the [Unit website](#) is the place to:

- ◆ Look up your partner's email address in the [Unit directory](#)
- ◆ Get the latest information about bridge-related events
- ◆ Directly [access scores](#) from all Houston virtual clubs

CANCELLATIONS

The following events have been canceled:

- ◆ D16 STaC Week, June 15-21
- ◆ Dallas Labor Day Regional, September 1-7

♣ 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.

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, including additional games for The Longest Day, are listed below. Please refer to each club's website for more details about its Longest Day activities.

APPLE DBC

Regular schedule:

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

Longest Day

The proceeds from the Friday, June 19, game will be donated to The Longest Day.

BBO Search Term: **Apple**

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

Regular schedule:

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon–Fri at 10:30am
Sat, Sun at 12 noon
Tue, Thu, Sat at 7:00pm
- ◆ Limited Pairs 199r: Mon, Wed, Fri at 10:00am
299r: Tue, Thu at 10:00am

Longest Day Games

- ◆ Open Pairs Sat, June 20 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm
Sun, June 21 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm
- ◆ Limited Pairs Sat, June 20 at 10:00am



WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Regular Schedule

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon–Sat at 10:15am
 Tue, Thu, Sat at 2:15pm; Sun at 1:15pm
 Wed at 7:00pm

- ◆ Limited Pairs 499r: Mon, Wed, Fri at 10:10am; Sun at 1:10pm
 299r: Tue, Thu at 10:10am; Sat at 2:10pm

Longest Day

- ◆ Open Pairs Sat, June 20, at 10:15am, 2:15pm, 6:15pm
 Sat, June 21, at 10:15am, 2:15pm, 6:15pm

- ◆ Limited Pairs 199r: Sat, June 20, and Sun, June 21 at 10:10am
 299r: Sat, June 20, and Sun, June 21 at 2:10pm
 499r: Sat, June 20, and Sun, June 21 at 6:10pm

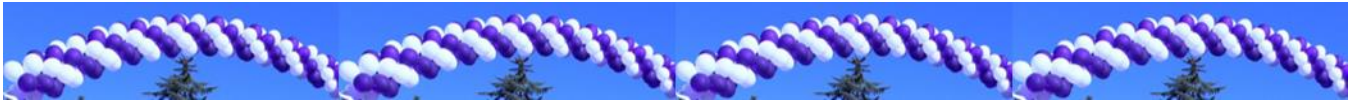
Proceeds from these games will be donated to The Longest Day.

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 two years of these monthly summaries are available here, on the WBA website.



Bridge Bulletin **ARTICLE OF THE MONTH**

The June, 2020, article of the month is "The Real Deal" by Larry Cohen on page 55. This article highlights a technique we often teach: a loser-on-loser play. The purposes of this play are (1) to cut defense's communications, (2) to end play a defender and (3) to keep the dangerous hand off lead.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	P	3D	3H
3N	4H	P	P
X			

West leads the DK.

South begins with three losers: the heart AK and the S3. The key to making this hand is to discard the S3, cutting the communication between the defenders. One way to make this hand is to immediately discard the S3 on the DK – a loser on a loser.

Then, the only remaining losers are the HA and HK.

Declarer had three opportunities to hold his losers to three and missed them all.

At the table, South ruffed the diamond, instead of pitching the C3. Strike one. He then played a heart to the J, which held. Next, a spade to the A and then the HQ.

West won the HA and East, not surprisingly, showed out. So South knows that West has the HK and the H8 behind his own T97. West won the heart trick and led a second diamond. South ruffed again. Strike two.

South played another high heart (assume the T), won by West. West leads the SJ, overtaken by East's SK, South following with the S3.

		♠ 1087652	
		♥ J	
		♦ Q7	
		♣ KQ65	
♠ QJ			♠ K94
♥ AK82			♥ 3
♦ K1052			♦ AJ98643
♣ J107			♣ 84
		♠ A3	
		♥ Q1097654	
		♦ —	
		♣ A932	

South has now lost all three losers identified at the outset of the hand. However, South's trump holding is now headed by the H9, H7 and the H8 is behind. More importantly, the defense was able to maintain communication and put East in a position to lead through South's trump holding.



East led a spade, putting South in an unwinnable position. If South trumps low, West will overruff. If South trumps high, West will discard, his H8 having been promoted into the master trump. If South doesn't trump, West will trump.

South did have a third opportunity to discard the S3. After winning the HJ, he could have led the DQ himself and discarded the S3. Strike three.

Had he discarded the S3, South could have trumped the trick on which East won the SK, keeping East -- the dangerous hand -- off lead. South would then have been in his own hand to draw West's last trump and make the contract.

All three strikes were the failure to play a loser on a loser.

Other articles that were considered:

- ◆ "It's Your Call," Deal 5 (p. 43). The highest scoring bid is 3N. However, this call relies on a good partner – one who will know (based on the bidding) to pull the 3N bid without help in spades or clubs.
- ◆ "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 48): "If, as dealer you hold a decent 6-card major, pass is never an option."
- ◆ "Bidding Basics" by Larry Cohen (p. 49). Jump shifts are forcing to game. After a 1D-1S, 3S sequence, 3NT is the correct bid with S Jxxx H KQx D Kx C QJxx. This is true that even though you have a 4-4 spade fit. You have lots of slow tricks/honor cards but not aces. This holding plays better in notrump than in spades.
- ◆ "Lessons Learned" by Michael Berkowitz (p. 52): when to hold up on defense.
- ◆ "Boehm on Bridge" by August Boehm (p. 54): the Lightner double and negative inferences.
- ◆ "Bidding Matters" by Karen Walker (p.58). A 2C auction is always forcing to at least 2N or 3M (major).



TAKE ALL YOUR CHANCES

"Take all your chances" is one of Eddie Kantar's favorite themes.

We opened the South hand 2N in first position. It's a close call between a strong 2C bid and a 2NT opener.

	N North	
	♠ KJ6	
	♥ QJ3	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ A8654	
W West		E East
♠ Q754		♠ 10932
♥ 9762		♥ 854
♦ 842		♦ KJ107
♣ 107		♣ 92
	S South	
	♠ A8	
	♥ AK10	
	♦ A653	
	♣ KQJ3	

It's a five-loser hand (one spade, one heart, two diamonds and a club). We like to be within a trick and a half of game to open 2C.

This hand looks like a routine 2N open -- 21 HCP and flattish. However, this hand is worth more than 21 points. Aces are worth more than four. Some count them as 4 ¼; Marty Bergen adds a point for three aces. All the points are prime values: honors supported by honors, and three first-round controls and a second-round

control. The hand is worth at least 22 points. OK, we'll stop this line of thought before we convince ourselves to open 2C planning on a 2N rebid, showing 22-24 points.

North made a reasonable 6NT bid with 13 HCP and a five-card suit.

We count our tricks: two spades (maybe three), three hearts, one diamond (maybe two) and five clubs. That's 11 tricks and two "maybes."

We want to take all our chances to convert at least one of the "maybes" into a trick.

On the actual layout, we can just take the spade finesse. It works and we make our contract. However, we are not privy to opponents' holdings during the play. Let's assume the East and West hands are switched.

Now if we take the spade finesse, it loses. We will go down, as it will be too late to lead low towards the DQ for trick 12. Whoever has the DK will win it.

The correct play is to lead low to the DQ. If West holds the DK, he will grab it, but now we will take two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and five clubs = 12 tricks. If East holds the DK,



we won't make our DQ, but we still have time to try the spade finesse. We get two chances to make our contract if we play diamonds first, but only one if we play spades first.

And if neither finesse works, we weren't making the contract anyway.

Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt

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