



Unit 174 Newsletter December 2021



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- *December 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes*
by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

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



President's Message

8th President's Message

With the holidays approaching, everyone is planning their parties and get-togethers. What a nice change! And following the holidays, we have our Lone Star Regional to look forward to: "The ACBL has decided to allow all tournaments in January to take place. The current policy is strongly to encourage masking of all players, directors, caddies, and volunteers.

The ACBL will review the positivity rate in your area one week before the tournament. If the rate is sufficiently high, the ACBL may require masking at that time."

Our lives are slowly getting back to some semblance of normal. A new bridge club is getting ready to start having F2F limited point games in February. They will be held on Wednesdays at the Arabia

Shriner's location at 10510 Harwin. Check the Unit 174 Website for updated details. I want to wish everyone a wonderful, safe holiday season,

Karen Nussbaum



New Members, Rank Advancements, and Member News

NEW MEMBERS

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and 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. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

Angleton: Steven E. Kaplan

College Station: David B. Kelly

Friendswood: Steven R. Bolinger

Houston: Keith S. Bozarth, Mary Hartman, Ephraim Kelly, Todd K. Sale, Holly H. Streety

Katy: Martyn L. Cooper, James R. Woodward, Sallye C. Woodward

La Porte: Douglas Hansen

League City: Timothy Brown

Texas City: Amy Mannie

Webster: Shiley S. Olson

Welcome! We are glad you are here :-)

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL in the December report. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints) (194 in Unit 174)

Charles H. Otto

Club Master (20 Masterpoints) (203 in Unit 174)

Thomas Kemeny, Robert D. Lane, Linda Tanner

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints) (215 in Unit 174)

David Rhoads

NABC Master (200 + Masterpoints) (189 in Unit 174)

Paula M. Day, Laurinda Lankford

Life Master (101 in Unit 174)

Cecilia Tse

Bronze Life Master (252 in Unit 174)

Kathleen F. McDougall, Debbie L. Nash

Silver Life Master (181 in Unit 174)

Myra M. Marsh, James E. Meade, James O. Morgan

Ruby Life Master (166 in Unit 174)

Erik Magid, Goldie Rose, Bert Sheldon, Frances Simmons

Gold Life Master (103 in Unit 174)

Stephen R. Boothe

Sapphire Life Master (69 in Unit 174)

Judy Cupps, Youssef N Youssef

Total Unit 174 Members - 2320

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News



Houston Marriott Westchase

January 24-30, 2022

Table Fees: Monday - Saturday \$11

Sunday \$13

**Red, Silver, and Gold Masterpoints
for the full flyer click [here](#)**

UPDATE as of 12/13: The Lone Star Regional

It is time to grab your partners and teammates to play in the Lone Star Regional! Here is some important information about the tournament:

- Parking is free at the Westchase Marriott!
- The tournament is cashless. Credit cards must be used to pay entrance fees.
- All attendees must show proof of COVID vaccination. As of this writing, masks are required.
- The tournament is fragrance-free.
- Tuesday, January 25th, will be FLM day. All 99er's table fees will be \$5.00 per session. There will be a 99er's party after the second session, starting around 5:30.
- The Teacher Appreciation award presentation will be made on Friday after the second session. Hot dogs and cake will be served!
- The District Awards will be presented between sessions on Saturday. Tacos will be served!
- Both the Director's Refresher Course and Best Practices Teacher Workshop will be offered at the Marriott Westchase the weekend before the Lone Star Regional! Each course costs \$50 (Best Practices is normally \$125!).
- Other surprises are planned! See you at the tournament!

The Slate of Candidates Has Been Announced

Unit 174 is proud to announce its slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The candidates are **Bill DeGeorge, Richard McGaughy, Raza Naqvi, Ashok Shingavi, Sarah Springer, and Eric Watson**. Thank you all for your interest in being on the Unit 174 Board of Directors. Good luck to each of you.

Club News

Below please find the information reported to us by the clubs in our Unit. Please send your club news to unit174newsletter@gmail.com. Your information must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the monthly Unit 174 Newsletter. Additional information on all our clubs can be found on the [Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to the club website.

APPLE CLUBS

Our games begin at 11:30 am sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15. Virtual club games Wednesdays at 3 pm. All games at \$3/person.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Paul Cuneo
paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net - 281-851-0422

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer
sandiferdb@gmail.com - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information at appledbcs.com.

Current requirements:

- **All players must furnish proof of vaccination. You may do that by bringing your vaccination card to the game or sending a photo of it to Paul.**
- **Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are permitted. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You're welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.**

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

www.BridgeWebs.com/bcoh

BCOH Online Choose Houston: Three Houston virtual clubs - Apple, BCOH, Clear Lake (ABC) - are offering a coordinated game schedule, [available on the Unit 174 website](#).

Mentor/Mentee Games: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm. Contact Mike Linkins for reservations: minkins@swbell.net.

BCOH Open Games (Face 2 Face) *pre-registration is not required for our weekly scheduled games.

Monday: 11:55am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 am

Ring in the New Year: January 1st

Get your New Year started with wonderful friends, delicious food, and a fun game of bridge. A meal will be served at 11:00 am,

followed by an Open game that will begin at noon. Please bring your favorite dish or dessert to share with all. No reservations are required. See you there.

“8 is Enough” - December 28th at 10:30 a.m.
(Register at the club)

Beverages and snacks provided for all F2F games
Proof of vaccination required for all F2F games

BCOH Annual Meeting date
The date of the Annual Meeting
and F2F game at the club has been changed to January 15th.

[Choose Houston - BBO Online Games](#)

Online Games for all levels every day!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:50 AM	199er			Holiday Schedule Fri, Dec 24 ♣ Regular morning games Sat, Dec 25 ♣ NO online games Fri, Dec 31 ♣ Regular morning games Sat, Jan 1 ♣ Midday and evening games			
9:55 AM							
10:00 AM	499er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM							199er
12:00 PM					Open		
3:00 PM			Open				
3:05 PM		0-20 FLM Apollo					
7:00 PM	Open			Open		Open	

Check the club and FLM websites for the most up-to-date information.

[CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB](#)

CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Clear Lake Bridge Club is located at 16614 Sky Lark Street, Houston, TX 77062 - Telephone: 281 480-1911. We welcome you all to our Face-to-Face games and our Virtual Club for fun games and masterpoints. www.clearlakebridgeclub.org

Annual Dues Drive:

Your Annual Dues of \$20 help us sustain our Club and keep our Game Fees low. In return, Members have these privileges:

- A Club Directory including your contact information
- Game Fee of \$5 (\$6 for NonMembers)
- Listing in our email system so you receive regular updates about events at the Club
- A Vote at our Annual Meeting
- Mail a check to Clear Lake Bridge Club at 16614 Sea Lark Road, Houston, Tx 77062
- Pay a game Director before/after games through January.

Safety Measures for playing Face-to-Face:

As per CDC recommendations, Clear Lake Bridge Club requires players to have completed the Covid Vaccine regimen. Please bring proof of vaccine to be added to the Eligibility List for Face-to-Face play. Other practices now in place:

- No food at the tables while playing.

- Wash hands frequently.
- Masks OPTIONAL

Special Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve

CLBC: Face-to-Face Open at 10:00 am
 Choose Houston BBO Games: 199er at 9:50 am
 499er at 10:00 am
 Open at 10:10 am

Christmas Day

No Games
 (Directors enjoying a much earned day off)

New Year's Eve

CLBC: Face-to-Face Open at 10:00 am
 Choose Houston BBO Games: 199er at 9:50 am
 499er at 10:00 am
 Open at 10:00 am

New Year's Day

CLBC: Face-to-Face Open at 1:00 pm
 Choose Houston BBO Games: 199er 11:50 am
 Open 12:00 pm
 Open 7:00 pm

REGULAR GAMES - \$5.00

Open Pairs

- Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00 AM
 - Saturday 1:00 PM
- Open Teams
- Sunday 1:00 PM
- 749er Pairs
- Tues/Thurs. 10:00 AM
 - Tues/Thurs. 10:00 AM



SPECIAL GAMES

Breakfast, Bridge & Lesson*

When: TWICE!

First: Dec 8 ~ 9:15
 Second: Dec 22 ~ 9:15

Where: At the club!

*BB&L: Breakfast starts at 9:15, Lesson begins once everyone is settled, Game starts at 10:00.

Mentor Mentee Game

When: Dec 15th ~ 2:00 PM

Where: At the club!

Virtual Club Games

BBO: "CHOOSE HOUSTON!"

OPEN Games Pairs

Mornings

Monday through Friday 10:10 AM

Afternoons

Saturday & Sunday 12:00 PM

I/N Games

Mornings

199ers Monday through Friday 9:50 AM

499er Monday through Friday 10:00 AM

Afternoons

199ers Sat & Sun 11:50 AM

Special Games for Future Life Masters (FLM)

0-20 CHOOSE HOUSTON FLM Apollo Game.

Assisted play Tuesdays at 3:05 PM

Assisted play Second Saturdays at 9:00 AM

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Cypress NW DBC meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, Tx, and games

are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30, with sign-up beginning at 11:00. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or jwarren760@gmail.com.

FORT BEND DBC Sugar Land

LIVE IN PERSON BRIDGE!

OPEN GAME TUESDAYS START PROMPTLY AT 9 AM

- **FREE COFFEE AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS**
- **WE USE BRIDGE MATE II BRIDGE PADS**
- **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EVERY TUESDAY EXCEPT FOR THE STAC**
- **HAND RECORDS AFTER EVERY GAME**
- **NICE BALANCE OF FRIENDLY A, B, & C PLAYERS**
- **ENTRIES ARE \$6.00 PER PLAYER IN DECEMBER**
- **USUALLY, 9-11 TABLES**

JOHN ERIC WATSON

ewat2004@aol.com

832 287 9107

JACKS CONFERENCE CENTER

3232 AUSTIN PARKWAY

SUGAR LAND, TX 77479



FLM Day! at the Lone Star Regional Tournament

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| • Apollo Game (0-20 MPs) | 10:00 |
| • Mixer Madness Game (0-99 MPs) | 2:30 |
| • FLM Reception (0-99 MPs) | 5:30 |

Come to the Tournament and visit us at the FLM Desk to learn more about FLM and how we can support you on your journey to becoming a Future Life Master!

Don't forget about our FLM regularly offered FLM Games:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------|-----|
| • Apollo Game (0-20) | Tuesdays | 3:00 | BBO |
|----------------------|----------|------|-----|

- Apollo Game (0-20) 2nd Sat 9:00 BBO
Assisted Play & Board Review
- Gemini (0-50 MPs) Mondays 4:00 BBO
- Discovery (0-99 MPs) Tuesdays 2:45 BBO
 Thursdays 2:45 BBO

All Players must have a BBO Screen Name with an ACBL# in their BBO Account.

Search for ChooseHouston or FLM

ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE JOIN US!

To learn more about our FLM Playing Groups, CLICK HERE: [Future Life Masters](#)

[KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB](#)

Katy DB meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00, and the game begins at 11:30. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or jwarren760@gmail.com.

Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club

Kingwood has re-opened! They have a new game time of 9:30 am at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive Kingwood, TX 77345.

For information, contact Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or jrsimmons2102@gmail.com. Community Center Phone: (281)348-2570.

KT Duplicate Bridge

KT Bridge will resume sanctioned bridge games after the holiday season

at our new location - Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

We plan to resume operation on January 4th next year. I want to thank all of our players for their support. I hope you all had a happy

and busy holiday season and are ready for an exciting new Bridge season. Please respond to this email to book your seat.

KT Duplicate Bridge Tuesday Game

The game will start at 11:30 am.

What: ACBL Sanctioned Game

When: Tuesday, January 4th at 11:30 am

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Lake Conroe is open for face-to-face games. Games are \$8 and are held every Friday at 10:30 am.

The LCBC is nonprofit and very supportive of charities throughout Montgomery County.

To play at LCDBC, we require full Covid vaccination, but masks are optional.

Please bring your lunch, as there are refrigerators and microwaves for your use. We provide coffee, tea, and snacks.

For further info, contact Penny Grassedonio at 832-361-4577 or czthdaypjg@gmail.com.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club hosts face-to-face games on Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am. January will be a regular game schedule. The Lone Star Bridge Club is located at St. Paul UMC, 1100 W Semands, Conroe.

Games are \$5 per person. Proof of vaccination is mandatory, and masks are optional.

First Monday is a free lesson by DLM Jeff Kroll. First Thursday is free pizza for lunch. We will have our regular games on January 24th and 27th.

Proof of Covid Vaccination is Mandatory and masks are optional.

If you need a partner, please get in touch with Sandra Maalouf - 936-597-8756.

We serve only individually wrapped snacks, coffee, and bottled water.

For questions about the club, contact Linda Sutton at LindaSutton212@gmail.com, 936-443-3600 or go to our website: www.lonestarbridgeclub.org

Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. For further info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421

or richard.duble@yahoo.com.

Spring Branch Duplicate Club

Games are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:30.

Location: Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas. Located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Wirt Road and Westview in the Spring Branch area.

Regular games are \$1/person. Charity games, STaC, and other special games more. Totally non-profit in accordance with County rules.

Manager & Director

Judith Hoffing

713-467-5805

hoffing2007@comcast.net

Star Duplicate Bridge Club

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and are \$7 per person. Masks are encouraged and you must have a partner. For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com



Guest Editors

December 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

We think most players will find these articles useful:

1. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, page 42, Deal 1. Thinking tricks and proper hand evaluation gets South to likely making small slam.
2. "Card Play 101" by Philip Alder, page 46. The second deal is an example of when to make the hand with the shorter trumps as the master. This is rarely done, but when the hand with the shorter trumps is able to pull the opponent's trumps, then a dummy reversal could be the correct way to play the hand. It is in this case.
3. "Bidding Basics" by Larry Cohen, page 51. Cohen lists the essential conventions, and conventions that are important but not essential, and advanced conventions. Cohen recommends that 99% of ACBL members should limit their conventions to those on his lists. Having said that, we are huge IDAK fans.
4. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms, page 53. Helms explains the difference between a responder and an advancer and the differences in responses and advances.
5. "Mike's Bridge Lesson," by Mike Lawrence, page 54. Lawrence describes how to identify and handle the danger hand.
6. "The Real Deal, Cohen, page 57. Cutting communications between the defenders to make the contract.

7. "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge" by Karen Walker, page 60. Walker describes common errors when playing Stayman, and why doubling to show a "stolen bid" is an ineffective use of the double. We recommend the system described by Michael Berkowitz in his "Lessons Learned" column on page 48 of the February 2021 ACBL Bulletin.

8. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar, Page 61. In deal 2, Kantar explains the difference between declaring this hand at IMPS and declaring it in matchpoints.

1. Upgrading the upgrade
Matchpoints. None vulnerable.

♠A Q 5 ♥A 6 ♦K Q 7 4 2 ♣A 10 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	Pass	2NT
			?
Call	Votes	Award	
6♦	4	100	
5♦	4	90	
6NT	3	70	
5♠	1	70	
Pass	3	60	

"It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker (p.42) - Hand evaluation, Kaplan/Rubens style

The hands in this month's column are evaluated using the K & R evaluator, which can be found at <http://www.jeff-goldsmith.org/cgi-bin/knr.cgi>.

Using this technique enables players to get to slam on the first deal.

Many will view this as a 19-point hand and open it 1♦, planning to bid 2NT (18-19 points) on the second bid. For advanced players, it's a clear 2NT opener. An advanced algorithm shows this at a 19.85 count.

We would evaluate it as follows:

- 19 HCP
- +1 for the three aces (per Bergen)
- +0.5 for the AQ combination in spades
- 1 for the fifth diamond in a suit

21.50 is a tad strong for a typical 20-21 2NT opener. But we like to open no trump whenever we can, as it makes the bidding easier and "right sides" the contract more often.

4NT bid is quantitative, inviting slam.

Larry Cohen, one of the panelists who got the top award for bidding 6♦, noted that this is a great trick-taking hand. Steve Robinson, another 6♦ bidder, observes that without a four-card major, partner should have diamond support. Those that bid 5♦ noted that it was natural and forcing. It doesn't commit to slam, but it is looking for it. Jeff Meckstroth makes the matchpoint call of 6NT.

Those that took the low road and passed did so because of the poor spots in the diamond suit. They got the bottom award for being so timid.

Dear Jerry,
 My LHO opened 1♦, partner doubled, and holding:
 ♠K 6 4 3 ♥A 10 8 4 ♦6 3 2 ♣J 5,
 I followed the rule by responding “up the line,” bidding 1♥. When my LHO rebid 2♦, and partner passed, I was reluctant to bid again. We had a 4-4 spade fit, and could easily make 2♠ even though partner held minimum values for his double. Where did we go wrong?
 Confused

“Ask Jerry” by Jerry Helms (p.53)

Plan a second bid before making your first

Up the line bidding only applies to when you are responding to the opening bidder. As Jerry says, “Always plan a second bid before you choose a first.”

In this case Confused needs to bid a spade in response to partner’s double. That way, on Confused’s second bid, he can bid 2♥. Then partner can choose between 2♥ and 2♠ at the two-level. If Confused bids hearts first and then spades, partner will be forced to go to the three-level if he prefers hearts.

The main point is if you plan ahead, you can make it easier on yourself by not having to memorize too many rules.

“Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge” by Karen Walker (p. 60) - How not to respond to 1N.

Walker makes the following points:

1. Do not use Stayman if a possible rebid by partner puts you in a position where you are forced to make a bad bid.
2. With a weak hand and 5-4 in the majors, it’s best to just transfer to the five-card major than to make a Stayman call. If you make a Stayman call and partner bids 2♦, bidding a major (spades, in the example) shows invitational values.
3. When opener rebids the “wrong” major in response to your Stayman call, do not show the “right” major. Partner knows you hold at least one four-card major or you would not have made the Stayman call.
4. It is almost never correct to transfer to a five-card minor. You do not want to be playing at the three-level in a 5-2 fit.
5. “Stolen bid” - aside from doubling after an interfering bid of 2♣ for Stayman - is not the best use of a double. Some players use them as takeout at all levels. Walker prefers:
 - a. Penalty at the two-level
 - b. Takeout at the three-level



We hope you have a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy.

If you would like to have your club info or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment you are proud of and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and event title to unit174newsletter@gmail.com.

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