



American Contract
Bridge League

Unit 174 Newsletter February 2021



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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

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's **Nancy Guthrie**, Flight Commander who, along with Pilots **Mary Ellen Vail**, **Janice Hardcastle** and **Betty Westbrook** are launching the Future Life Master (FLM) program.

What is the FLM program? It is the brainchild of **Greg May** with input from board members **Kathy McDougall**, **Lauri Laufman** and **Nancy Guthrie**. Special thanks go to former board member **Cindy Cox** who contributed to the project, including the naming of the three playing groups:

Apollo
(0-20)

Mary Ellen Vail

Gemini
(21=50)

Janice Hardcastle

Discovery
(51-100)

Betty Westbrook



The FLM was designed to develop, educate, encourage and support players as they embark on their bridge journey. The Playing Groups concept within the FLM allows members to work together in forming partnerships, create playing opportunities, discover educational opportunities, interface with clubs and contribute ideas for unit tournaments.

Information on the Future Life Masters program can be found [here](#).

It is now tax season. How do I know? I received a 40-page tax return to sign from our treasurer, **Gary Hercules**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gary for all the work that he does as treasurer. Gary attends every board meeting, produces a monthly financial report, pays the bills, and does the tax return for Unit 174. He volunteers to do this work with no compensation.

Thank you, Gary. It is difficult to express how much we appreciate your efforts.

Until next month, may your partner make a balancing double when your RHO opens 3♠ and your spade holding is the KQJ1098.

Jack LaVigne, President, Unit 174

jacklavigne@att.net

Board Business

TOURNAMENT CHAIRS APPOINTED

Karen Nussbaum, Greg May and Kathy McDougall were appointed tournament chairs for the June, August and October sectionals, respectively. Of course, information will be forthcoming regarding the status of future face-to-face tournaments.

DISTRICT 16 STAR

Congratulations to **Sam Khayatt**, 2021 District 16 Star recipient. This award is given annually to a volunteer who works steadfastly at the Unit level to promote Bridge and to further Unit activities.

Sam has been a super volunteer for years. Her generosity to Unit 174 includes chairing



numerous Regional and Sectional Hospitalities, co-editing the Unit Newsletter and co-teaching a director's course. She always receives praise for the excellent job she does and for being a team player.

Thank you, Sam, for all you have done.

GOODWILL AWARDS

Congratulations also to **Charles Dalton** and **John Erickson** who are the Unit 174 Goodwill recipients. This award is given to recognize and honor District 16 players who exhibit a spirit of courtesy, kindness and tact at the Bridge table.

These individuals are our ambassadors of goodwill to all other players. If you have played against or with Charlie or John, you know how deserving they are of this award.

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: **Debbie Cole, Martha R Hocutt, Larry G Monroe, Joan Moon, William P Nickles, Richard R Preston, Kas Rangan, Charlotte M Sanguinetti, Stephen R Sparks**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for January, 2021. An explanation of ranks may be found at [on the ACBL website](#).

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Lori Cheek, Walter K Richeson, Barry Sanders, Christopher W Uzelmeier

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Chuck H Drinnan, Ruth A Gilman, Michael E Hanna, Susan L Hanna, Meynard M Nussbaum, Jane L Wood



Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Gulten Burdett, Judy Dillard, Chris Duncan, Carolyn Elliott, Mahlon E First, Cynthia D Heagy, Carol Kelly, Dennis B Malpass, Martha D McWilliams, Donna Scott, Chung Tan, Marie Underdown, John M Williams

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Francis V Gay, John Magyari, Barbara D Sweeney

Life Master (107 in Unit 174)

Linda K Drake, Kathleen F McDougall, Martha T Wallace

Bronze Life Master (268 in Unit 174)

James N Cauble, Mark Incerto, Myra M Marsh

Silver Life Master (189 in Unit 174)

Katherine L Gardner, Virginia Hillegeist, Susan F Theiss

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News

EXTRA, EXTRA POINTS! READ ALL ABOUT IT

As you read this, underway is the ACBL regionally-rated online event, Hollywood Magic, Feb 18-21. Click here for a session schedule:

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Hollywood_Schedule.pdf

March brings the following opportunities for extra points:

Mar 6-8	Spring 2021 NABC Robot Individual
Mar 11-21	Spring 2021 North American Online Bridge Championships (NAOBC)
Mar 22-28	Stardust Week

ACBL has published the 2021 Online Event Schedule through June, 2021. [Click here for the full schedule of ACBL online events and games.](#)



DIRECTOR COURSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Online director certification courses will now be offered on a quarterly basis. The next ACBL Club Director Courses will be taught Mar 1-4, from 7pm to 10:30pm EST and April 10-11, from 11am to 7 pm EST. The 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.

ONLINE VOTING BEGINS MARCH 23

The board voted to start online voting Mar 23, 2021. Members may vote for one, two or three of the six candidates: **Dave Becker, Bill Keihnhoff, Carol Lombardino, Raza Naqvi, Thomas Rush** and **Eric Watson**.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATIONS

Due to the ongoing risk posed by the surging coronavirus and the slow rollout of the vaccine, the ACBL will not staff face-to-face bridge tournaments through April 30, 2021. The ACBL will announce by March 1 whether this moratorium will be extended. The cancellations include the Spring NABC, scheduled for March 11-21, and the Unit 174 Election Sectional, scheduled for April 16-18.

♣ 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 immediately below.

Information on face-to-face bridge is listed below the vClub information.



APPLE DBC

Regular schedule:

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

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 during the month. Please contact **Roxie Walker** (roxie_w@hotmail.com) if you would like to play in one of them.

BBO Search Term: **BCOH**



CLEAR LAKE / GALVESTON

The Clear Lake and Galveston clubs have combined to form an online "virtual club".

Regular Schedule

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon–Fri at 10:00am
 Sat 1:15pm

- ◆ Limited Pairs 49r: Wed at 9:45am
 99r: Mon, Fri at 9:45am
 199r: Tue, Thu at 9:45am; Sat at 1:00pm

- ◆ Open Swiss Sun at 2:30pm
 NEW!

The mentor game takes place at 2:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month.

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat at 6:30pm
 Robot: Tue, Thu, Fri at 2:15pm
 Sun 1:15pm

- ◆ Limited Pairs 99r: Mon, Wed, Fri at 9:45am
 199r: Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat at 6:15pm, Sun at 1:00pm

BBO Search Term: **CLBC-GBC**



WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Regular Schedule

- ◆ Open Pairs Mon–Sat at 10:15am
 Sun at 2:30pm
 Wed at 7:00pm

- ◆ Limited Pairs 99r: Tue, Sat at 10:05am
 Updated 299r: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri at 10:05am; Sun at 2:20pm
 749r: Mon-Fri at 3:15pm; Sat at 1:00pm

- ◆ Open Swiss Sun at 6:00pm
 NEW!

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.

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 99r game.

Mentor/Mentee Games

WBA holds Mentor/Mentee games on the second Wednesday morning at 10:15am and on the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. All three 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>.

BBO Search Term: **WBA**



CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

The following was received:

At Last – Face to Face Bridge!

Mark your calendars! **Jim Warren** is opening up Cypress NW DBC and his new club, Bear Creek, during the last week of February or the first week of March for face-to-face bridge.

Keep an eye on your email for the specific dates, times, and places. Check the Club website ([Cypress NW DBC](#) and [the Bear Creek DBC - Serving West Houston and Katy Areas, Harris County, Texas, USA](#)) or the [Unit 174 website](#) for updates.

Jeanne Phelps

713-933-8455

jsfphelps@gmail.com

FORT BEND COUNTY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

The following was received:

I have had my first vaccine shot for Covid-19

Once there are at least 30 players who have had BOTH shots of the vaccine, we may open the Tuesday game with approval from Sugar Land Parks and Recreation.

I expect this will be as early as April or as late as June.

Eric Watson

ewat2004@aol.com

832-287-9107

KATY BRIDGE CLUB

The following was received:

Opening Game Day has been delayed from February 17, 2021 to March 17, 2021.

My previous announcement was a bit too optimistic. The response was good but it soon became clear that we would not have enough members vaccinated to make a game.



Accordingly I have pushed back the opening date 30 days to March 17th. I will re-evaluate and report on my findings by March 1 at the latest.

With availability of a vaccine to the Covid virus I feel we can safely restart our game. I urge all members that want to play to take advantage of the vaccine before coming to play.

Bob Lee

Relee321@gmail.com

TEXT 713 557 4077



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 February, 2021, *Bridge Bulletin* article of the month is the Hand 2 in Eddie Kantar's "Test Your Play" on page 61. The first key to this deal is that you're playing IMPs – so you need to try to make your contract – even at the risk going down an extra trick. The second key is, although you can see three quick club losers in a five-level contract, the defenders can't see

through the cards to know what you know. So, you have a reasonable chance of making your game. If you do, you're a hero!

As you can see, West is not a good sport. If a diamond or spade is led, you can win in your hand, pull trump, and unblock the ♠A. Then you would go to the board with the ♥A and pitch two clubs on the ♠KQ.

Once the HA is dislodged, you have no entry to dummy and the two spades needed for club pitches.

Of course, the good news is that the defense did not take their three clubs off the top, so maybe West is a good sport.

2

Dir: West	♠ K Q 7 4
Vul: Both	♥ A 7 3 2
IMPs	♦ 4
	♣ 8 7 6 5
	♠ A
	♥ 6
	♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7
	♣ J 10 3

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	5♦
All Pass			



Since you cannot afford to have the ♥A dislodged at trick one, duck!!!! Sure, the defense can still take their three clubs in addition to the heart trick you just gave them, for down two. But you are playing for a vulnerable game, so it's worth the risk.

Not always but often, West will continue hearts. After all, West doesn't know that you ducked the ace of hearts opposite a singleton. If West continues hearts, now you will win your ♥A – and discard the ♠A from your hand!!! Now you can discard two losing clubs on the ♠KQ.

You will just lose one club and one heart, making your vulnerable game. Always play to give yourself a chance in IMPS – especially when it concerns vulnerable games.

Other articles

Other articles that were considered:

- ◆ "Consults with the Doctor" by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg (p. 30). This covers responses to partner's weak two-bids. Particularly useful are the calls that extend the preempt – even past the game level. As with the initial preempt, extending the preempt should be done in one bid – don't let the opponents exchange information.
- ◆ "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn (p. 37). Problem 2 explains why East can't open the diamond-oriented hand 1♦ and then jump to 3♦ on the subsequent bid; 3♦ is not forcing.
- ◆ "It's Your Call," moderated by Sue Munday and Karen Walker (p. 42). Problem 4 makes a case for and against exploring for slam vs. settling for 3N
- ◆ "Card Play 101" by Philip Alder (p. 44). Alder describes two hands where you can use the bidding to determine the location of missing high card and then make the winning play.
- ◆ "Startup Bridge" by Lynn Berg (p. 47). South does not preempt high enough; East underbids.
- ◆ "Lessons Learned" by Michael Berkowitz (p. 48) presents an easy-on-the-memory method of handling interference over partner's 1N.
- ◆ "Better Bridge with Bergen" by Marty Bergen (p. 57). The discussion of when and when not to open 2N. It's not all about the high cards.



TRIP THE LIGHT SLAM-TASTIC

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

- North (Robot):** ♠KQ76, ♥KQ98765, ♦6, ♣8
- South (texashen):** ♠AJ53, ♥A, ♦K432, ♣AK103
- West (Robot):** ♠10942, ♥10, ♦AQ97, ♣QJ95
- East (Robot):** ♠8, ♥J432, ♦J1085, ♣7642
- Bidding Table:**

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠	
Pass	Pass	Pass		
- Score:** 6♠ South, NS: 0, EW: 0

	North	South	
<i>Opener by any reasonable standard: two quick tricks, four-loser hand, 10 HCP with all points in the long suits, 11 cards in the two longest suits. Meets the suggestion of 22: 10 HCP + 11 cards in the two longest suits = 21 and each KQ counts as a quick trick, for 21 + 2.</i>	1♥	1♠	<i>100% forcing; partner's 1♥ bid did not deny spade.</i>
<i>Support with support; play in the 4-4 major "golden fit."</i>	2♠	3♣	<i>Forcing, looking for more information about the North hand.</i>
<i>Minimum hand (11-14)</i>	3♠	6♠	<i>Three aces, 4 1/2 quick tricks (♣ K is a quick trick; ♦ K is a half), and second-round diamond control. If a diamond is led, it's coming into the protected K. 4♠ looks cowardly, but might be correct.</i>

West leads the singleton ♥T, won in hand with the ♥A.

The ♠A is led; both opponents follow. No 5-0 trump split.



The ♣A is led (the third ace in a row!), and then the ♣K, on which the ♦6 is pitched.

A spade is led to the K with the hope that both defenders will follow. They don't. West has four spades to the T9.

A small heart is led from dummy and ruffed small. West overruffs, but that's it for the defense

West leads a small diamond, ruffed in dummy.

West's last trump is drawn with the ♠K and then the rest of the hearts are run to make 6♠ and a 100% board.



Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
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