



Unit 174 Newsletter July 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

We hope to make "see you at the tables" a reality, not just a virtual reality.

We are pulling out all the stops to encourage everyone to attend our August Sectional! We are committed to ensuring attendees' safety, so proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required. You will be issued a wristband after showing proof of vaccination, so you will have to show it only once. And... check out the [Unit 174 website](#) to see the perks we are offering!

F2F games are back in full-force now, and we hope everyone will be returning to the tables soon-our local clubs need our support.

Plans are underway for our November sectional and for the Lone Star Regional in January. We need volunteers for both of these tournaments; please let me know (karenenuss@gmail.com) if you would like to help out.

And... on the good news front: through June, we have 169 new (brand-new or transferred-in) Unit members!

Karen Nussbaum, President, Unit 174

Board Business

NEW MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Board has created a new Membership Committee to help us keep track of our current members, welcome new members and follow up with lapsed members. As needed, the committee will help Unit members games and partners for them, if needed. **Carol**

Lombardino is heading up this group of volunteers; please contact her (cllomb2@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

CHARITY GAMES POSTPONED

Our Unit 174 Charity games have been postponed due to Covid and are now scheduled for December. Check the Unit website for dates. Reminder: all special games are on the Unit calendar.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

We are forever grateful to Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt for the awesome job they have done as editors of the Unit 174 Newsletter. They are stepping down at the end of August. We are happy to announce that Jeanne Phelps and Linda Warren will be the new editors.

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: **Donald F Bagozzi, Elizabeth J Bradley, Curtis L Daniel, Shabana Khan, Robert Krusemark, Sandy Krusemark, Marilyn Mac Donald, Robert G Oneill, Sally Posmantur, Victoria O Smart, Thomas K Turnipseed, Karen Wahl, Peter Wahl, Lynda W Walsh**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Gerald Fritz, Bob J Nelms, Raymond Orriss

Club Master (20 Masterpoints)

Susan M Demarco, Earlene Riser, Sue D Taylor, Christopher W Uzelmeier

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Richard Arnold, M K Drinnan, David Feuerbacher, Barry Sanders

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Jean Beck, Edna A Rice, Russell Thomas

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Bill F DeGeorge, Jorge L Rodriguez

Life Master (102 in Unit 174)

Baijanti Shrestha

Bronze Life Master (258 in Unit 174)

Tera Boyd, Susan D Domsalla

Silver Life Master (188 in Unit 174)

Glenda Faragher, John P Montgomery, Fred Mueller, Joyce H Settle

Ruby Life Master (165 in Unit 174)

Nile A Gross, Bonnie B Keough

Sapphire Life Master (62 in Unit 174)

Romeo Bodrogi-Podoaba, Carolyn F Labouliere, Nancy A Strohmer

Diamond Life Master (47 in Unit 174)

John B Du Bose Jr

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News

EXTRA, EXTRA POINTS! READ ALL ABOUT IT

Stardust Week returns July 16 - August 1. All virtual club games will award double points, 75% black and 25% gold. Come play and go for the gold! Check your club's website for the week's game schedule.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

Club-level qualification began in June and runs through August. No unit-level qualification is required. The district-level qualifier will be held at the San Antonio sectional on Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 16, 2022. The location is: Drury Plaza Stone Oak (hotel) / 823 North Loop 1604E, San Antonio | 210-494-2420, 800-378-7946. The nationals will be held at the NABC in Reno in March, 2022.

AWESOME AUGUST SECTIONAL

Make plans to attend the Awesome August Sectional - it is only a few weeks away! It will take place at a new site: Arabia Shrine Center, 10510 Harwin Dr, Houston, TX 77036. Tournament chairs **Karen Nussbaum** and **Carol Lombardino** are working hard to make the Unit's sectional a successful one. [Click here for the tournament flyer.](#)

ACBL-based protocols apply for this tournament: anyone attending must show proof of vaccination, but wearing a mask is optional.

Thursday morning breakfast is on the Unit! Complimentary breakfast tacos will be served before the game. Boxed lunches can be purchased for \$10 on all days and breakfast tacos will be available for a small charge on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

More good news! Sunday table fees are only \$5. Surprises have been scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Along with Thursday's complimentary breakfast, there is something special every day. Come join the fun!

FUTURE LIFE MASTERS (FLM)

The FLM program continues to flourish with increased interest from our newcomer group. The second Mixer Madness will take place on July 28th.

Flight Pilots **Mary Ellen Vail, Janice Hardcastle, and Betty Westbrook** are encouraging their masterpoint groups of less-tenured bridge players to continue to play and to invite their friends to do so also.

FALL NABC IN AUSTIN

Austin, Texas is hosting a North American Bridge Championship this November! The NABCs are hosted by ACBL and held three times a year at varying locations across the U.S. and Canada. [Click here to make hotel reservations or view the game schedule.](#)

♣ 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](#). Or, click a club name below to jump the club website.

APPLE (UPDATED)

ALERT!!! Starting July 2 the Apple Clubs are starting the games at 11:30 am!

Online games

- ◆ **Open Pairs** Wed at 3:00pm
- ◆ **Limited Pairs** 299rs during special weeks only

Special Games (all at 11:30 am)

- ◆ Jul 23 North American Pairs (NAP)
- ◆ Jul 26 North American Pairs (NAP)
- ◆ Jul 30 ACBL Charity

Guidelines for F2F play

The following conditions will be in effect to minimize the risk to players, staff and the community that uses the center:

- ◆ All players must furnish proof of vaccination. You may do that by bringing your vaccination card to the game or by sending a photo of it to Paul. paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net or text 281-851-0422
- ◆ Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are permitted. No food allowed at the tables during play. You're welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.
- ◆ We'll evaluate these positions on a monthly basis and provide updates on changes at the games and on our website.

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

Thank you to all who took part in the BCOH Longest Day event. You helped us raise \$2575.00 for the Alzheimer's Foundation. We had a great turnout on July 3rd for the Grand reopening. It was so nice for everyone to catch up with friends, play some bridge and enjoy a delicious meal. A big thanks to **Bonnie Terrell** for putting together a wonderful day (desserts were outstanding!) Hope to see you back!

Online games

- ◆ **Open Pairs** Mon-Fri at 10:20am

Sat, Sun at 12 noon
Tue, Thu, Sat at 7:00pm

◆ **Limited Pairs**

199r: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri at 10:00am; Sun at 11:50am
299r: Tue at 10:00am

◆ **Mentor Games**

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

Face-to-face club games

◆ **Open Pairs** Mon at 11:55am; Tue, Wed, Fri at 10:30am

◆ **Limited Pairs** 199r: Mon at 11:55am; Wed at 10:30am

Special games every day at the club! [Please see our event calendar](#) for details.

CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Cypress NW meets at the Meg Weekly Community Center and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at noon, with sign-up beginning at 11:30.

KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Katy meets every Wednesday - sign-in starts at 11:30 and the game begins at noon. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road., Houston, Texas 77084

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

The Longest Day was a success. Our goal was \$1600, and we raised \$2196. Thanks to all for your donations and participation.

Special games

- ◆ JULY All remaining games in July are NAP games
- ◆ Aug 02 Grass Roots Fund
- ◆ Aug 05 Grass Roots Fund
- ◆ Aug 09 Charity game for ACBL
- ◆ Aug 12 Club Championship
- ◆ Aug 16 North American Pairs (NAP)
- ◆ Aug 19 North American Pairs (NAP)

Plans are underway for new activities beginning in September: a monthly Tuesday 499r game and a monthly bridge lesson from **Jeff Kroll**. Stay tuned for details.

WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

We will have our August birthday bash on Friday, August 6th. Pizza and salad provided.

Online games

- ♦ **Open Pairs** Tue, Thu at 3:00pm
Sat at 10:00am

- ♦ **Limited Pairs** 99r: Sat at 9:45am
749r: Mon, Wed, Fri at 3pm

- ♦ **Mentor Game** 2nd, 4th Mondays at 7:00pm

Face-to-face (F2F) club games

- ♦ **Open Pairs** Mon - Fri at 10:30am
Sat at 1:00pm

 - ♦ **Limited Pairs** 0-20: Mon at 10:30 with **Joyce Ryan**
299r: Mon, Fri at 10:30am

 - ♦ **Teams** Sun at 2:00pm
"8 is Enough" 3rd Friday at 7:00pm
-



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 of these monthly summaries are available [here, on the WBA website](#).

Bridge Bulletin ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

The July 2021 *Bridge Bulletin* article of the month is "Mike's Bridge Lesson" by Mike Lawrence on page 54. In this continuation of his "When should a defender force declarer to ruff" series, Lawrence presents a situation where the defender should NOT force declarer to ruff. The defense must take its tricks as quickly as possible or lose them -- an active defense.

	♠ Q107	
	♥ AQJ108	
	♦ 72	
	♣ J75	
♠ A6		♠ 54
♥ 743		♥ K52
♦ K986	W -1- E	♦ Q53
♣ AKQ9	S	♣ 86432
	♠ KJ9832	
	♥ 96	
	♦ AJ104	
	♣ 10	

As West, we lead the ♣A, followed by the ♣K, which declarer ruffs. Declarer continues with a spade to the ♠Q and another back to our ♠A, partner following with the ♠4, then the ♠5. Now what?

On the bidding it appears likely that South hold six spades as he took the invite to 4♠. Partner's play of the 4, then the 5 shows an even number of spades, two, in this case. The trump suit is played differently from the other suits

when giving count. Low - high shows an even number in the trump suit.

Playing another club will force declarer to ruff again, and that is often a good strategy to cause declarer to lose control of the hand. But not in this case; declarer has too many trump to lose control of the hand.

We take note of the long, almost-solid heart suit in dummy. After the ♥K is knocked out, that declarer discard any losers on the long heart suit. That is our clue to pursue an active defense. If declarer holds the ♥K, it's over (for us) as soon as he gets in.

We have no more spades, a heart will just help declarer to run the hearts, and a club will be ruffed. Our only chance to set the contract is to play a diamond - an active defense.

If partner holds the ♦A, we set the contract quickly: two diamond tricks in addition to a club and a spade.

If partner East holds ♦Q and the ♥K, we will set the contract by taking four tricks: one trick in every suit.

If we lazily play a club, declarer will knock out the ♥K and discard his losing diamonds on the long hearts.

Other articles considered

- ◆ Product review by Paul Linxwiler: Trump Suit Headaches: Rx for Declarers and Defenders by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg (p. 27). The example in column 3 discusses giving up an unnecessary trump trick to gain an entry to three good spades.
- ◆ "It's Your Call, Deal 1 (p. 42): experts' discussion on what to bid includes: vulnerability, what partner is likely to have, whether to jump to show values or not jump to conserve bidding space.
- ◆ "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 46): taking your chances in the correct order, the difference in strategies between matchpoints and IMPS.
- ◆ "Parrish the Thought: Spotting a Singleton" by Adam Parrish (p. 47): clues that the opening lead might be a singleton.
- ◆ "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p. 55): why it is usually wrong to pull all the trumps before setting up a side suit that is not solid.
- ◆ "Better Bidding with Bergen: Improving your bidding judgement" by Marty Bergen (p. 59). Bergen presents three hands, each of which illustrates a bidding principle:
 1. Think about your second bid before making your first
 2. Having a four-card major should not stop you from preempting when you have the right suit to do it with.
 3. Deciding when to open 1NT (or not) is not based solely on high card points.
- ◆ "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge" by Karen Walker (p. 60): when to open 1NT with a 5 card major and when to open the major.

MANAGING A BAD TRUMP SPLIT DURING THE AUCTION

When the bidding tells you that the potential trump suit will be splitting badly, consider playing in notrump. When you know how a suit is splitting and the defender does not, give him a chance to

make a mistake.

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

- Score:** 6
- West Robot Hand:** ♠ J7532, ♥ A1095, ♦ K, ♣ K32
- North Robot Hand:** ♠ AK104, ♥ Q863, ♦ 54, ♣ Q96
- South (taxashen) Hand:** ♠ Q9, ♥ KJ74, ♦ AJ96, ♣ AJ7
- East Robot Hand:** ♠ 86, ♥ 2, ♦ Q108732, ♣ 10854
- Bidding Summary:**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦	2NT	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT
- 3NT South Summary:** NS: 0, EW: 0

West	North	East	South
		P	1N
2♦	2N	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	3N

Auction Notes (we are South)

- ♦ Our 1N does not promise a stopper in all suits
- ♦ West's 2♦ is Cappelletti, showing the majors. It was alerted as 5-5, but is often used with a 4-5 or 5-4 holding.
- ♦ North's 2N is a lebensohl bid, forcing our (South's) 3♣.
- ♦ North's 3♠ is a lebensohl continuation, showing four (at least) hearts, 10+ points and, likely, a spade stop.

Our 3N. We rarely pass up a 4-4 major fit when we have a

- ♦ ruffing value (spades), but West has alerted that he holds five hearts, and we have half a stopper in spades, so 3N it is.

West leads the fourth-best ♠3 and we win the ♠9.

We now play the ♥K, expecting West to have all five missing hearts. We want to preserve dummy's high hearts. As expected, West wins the ♥A; surprisingly, East follows.

West exits with the ♠7; we win the ♠Q.

Now we make the key play of allowing West to make a defensive mistake. West does not know that we started with four hearts (we did not choose the heart game), but we know that West started with four hearts and that East is now out. So, we lead the ♥7, and West makes the mistake of ducking instead of splitting his honors. The ♥7 wins.

We take:

- 4 spades
- 3 hearts

1 diamond
2 clubs
10 total tricks - including a valuable overtrick



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