



Unit 174 Newsletter

June 2021



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

The Unit 174 Board of Directors is hard at work planning for our August Sectional. We are all looking forward to this event and hope the unit members are, too. And just when we thought we knew what was expected of us regarding Covid procedures at tournaments, everything changed. When we hear back from ACBL regarding this situation we will let everyone know and we will comply. It has been quite a year, and hopefully we are all welcoming the positive changes.

The lack of socializing has been the most difficult part of quarantining for most of us. Online bridge has been a stabilizing force in our home and for many of you as well. Having a set schedule and chatting with our partners kept us grounded. I know everyone has missed friends and families; that was the hardest part. The worst seems to be behind us now. Moving forward, most of us are ready to resume the social life we used to enjoy, and that includes F2F bridge. I know I am!

Karen Nussbaum, President, Unit 174

Board Business

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR AUGUST 2021 SECTIONAL

The Unit 174 Board has updated the August sectional Covid Safety section to refer players to the unit website (acblUnit174.org) for the latest guidelines. With so many conflicting rules that are constantly changing, we will wait until the last day possible to decide what is the best policy for us to follow. The ACBL has promised an update on their policy by early July. Their first concern is the health and safety of the ACBL directors and bridge players attending. The City

of Houston protocols differ from the Governor's, as do the CDC's. The Arabia Shrine Center also has its own protocols but they are flexible. We will do our best to keep everyone safe and comfortable and follow the rules that seem to apply to our situation.

Please contact Karen Nussbaum (karenenuss@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns

HELP WANTED

Use your skills to give back to bridge!! Unit 174 needs volunteers for these positions:

- ◆ Membership Committee Co-Chairs
- ◆ Newsletter Editors

Please contact **Karen Nussbaum** (karenenuss@gmail.com) or **Thomas Rush** (selfgovern@gmail.com) for more details.

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: **Judy L Allen, Keith G Davis, Betty Henderson, Fred Infortunio, Betty J Jackson, Lori Jacobs, Niels H Kastrup, Patrick Kenny, Linda M Marshall, Elaine P Mulligan, Dawn A Perreault, Richard Perreault, Bill Peterson, Sara M Rowe, Lucy C Shaw, Doris O Sullivan, Arthur L Williams**

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints)

Danielle G Donnelly, William L Lafuze

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints)

Judith S Barr, Pat S Esslinger, Beverly J Gebhart, Juanita M Goss, Penny Grasedonio, Michael E Hanna, Susan L Hanna, Kathleen C Hubbard, Katherine G Low, Mary R Malone, Cynthia Monroe, Kristy K Tankersley, Margaret S Williams

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints)

Bill F Farrar, Judy Farrar, Amy Grossman, Ronda F Kelly, Chung Tan

NABC Master (200 Masterpoints)

Brian R Dudley

Life Master (104 in Unit 174)

Terry K McGarrity

Bronze Life Master (257 in Unit 174)

Dustin M Hoover

Silver Life Master (192 in Unit 174)

Paddy R Fiorino

Ruby Life Master (162 in Unit 174)

Susan P Belding, Kathleen W Hurst, Gregory May, Susan S McLaurin

Gold Life Master (104 in Unit 174)

Carolyn B Campbell, Kenneth F Cole

Sapphire Life Master (60 in Unit 174)

Linda A Sutton, George G Wieland

Diamond Life Master (46 in Unit 174)

Richard D Wilson

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

174 Unit News

EXTRA, EXTRA POINTS! READ ALL ABOUT IT

June 19-20: Longest Day Online

Play in your usual vClub games to win DOUBLE points and benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

June 20-27: Longest Day at the Clubs

Houston-area clubs are holding charity games and other fundraisers to benefit. Refer to each club's website for more information.

- ◆ Jun 21 **Bridge Club of Houston:** silent auction for a game with an expert
- ◆ Jun 23 **Clear Lake Bridge Club:** upgraded game
- ◆ Jun 24 **Lone Star Bridge Club:** silent auction for a game with an expert; prizes for top finishers

June 24-27: Endless Summer (Online)

Play in this regionally-rated online even to win red and gold points. There are now two two-session (gold point-awarding) events per day.

[Click here for the schedule.](#)

Jul 26-Aug 1: Stardust Week (Online)

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 begins in June and runs through August. There is no unit-level qualification required. The district-level qualifier will be held at the San Antonio sectional on Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 16. 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.

FUTURE LIFE MASTERS

The FLM incentive continues to flourish...0-20 games have always "made"! The enthusiasm of the FLM team has spread to our newcomer players....encouraging them to pay both in person at the clubs and online.

This program is designed for new players to:

- ◆ Meet other players at the same level in the Greater Houston Area
- ◆ Provide information about classes and teachers
- ◆ Play in games with their peer group (Apollo 0-20, Mixer Madness)

Apollo 0-20 Assisted Play

Join us at 2:30 for a short lesson presented by Greg May, followed by an "assisted play" BBO game where you can ask for help if you need it.

Mixer Madness

Held once a month, the purpose of Mixer Madness is to have players attend SOLO and be matched with a ONE-TIME Game Partner. WHY? It's an easy way to meet new people, play a game and maybe find a new, regular partner.

The next Mixer Madness will be held July 22nd. If you have between 21-100 Masterpoints, watch for an EVITE inviting you to play.

A big round of applause goes to our FLM Pilots: **Mary Ellen Vail, Janice Hardcastle, and Betty Westbrook.**

We encourage you to check out our website (link provided via the Unit 174 website or <https://acblunit174.org/FLM.htm>). Join us by sending a "sign me up" email to FlightCommander@flm.174.com.

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

ALERT!!! Starting July 2, the Apple Clubs are starting the games at 11:30 am at the club on Mondays and Fridays.

Online games

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

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
- ◆ All players must wear a mask while inside the facility. This is a current Harris County requirement.
- ◆ 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

Longest Day

BCOH is continuing its tradition of offering games with Houston-area (and beyond) expert players in exchange for a donation to the Alzheimer's Association. We are very fortunate this year; many experts have generously offered to donate their time to this worthy cause. They are: **Bill Riley, Buddy Hanby, Daniel Jackson, Dolores Aquino, Georgiana Gates, Jack LaVigne** (sold out), **Jeff Kroll** (sold out), **Jeff McKee** (sold out), **Joe Quinn, Julie Halperin, Phillip Grothus** (sold out), **Sally Wheeler, Thomas Rush** (pairs game) and **Thomas Rush / Wes Peirce** (team game, sold out).

[Click here to donate and claim your game with an expert!](#)

Grand Opening Celebration July 3

BCOH will hold a grand re-opening celebration on July 3, with a delicious catered meal and both Open Pairs and I/N games.

Reservations are required; please sign up on the [BCOH website](#).

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.

Games at the club

- ◆ **Open Pairs** Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri at 10:30am

Limited

- ◆ **Pairs** 199r: Mon, Wed at 10:30am
-

CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB

Online games

- ◆ **Open Pairs** Thu, Thu at 10:15am

Face-to-face (F2F) club games

- ◆ **Open Pairs** Mon, Wed, Fri at 10:00am
Sat at 1:00pm
- ◆ **Limited Pairs** 199r: Mon, Wed at 2:00pm
499r: Tue at 10:00am
749r: Thu at 10:00am
- ◆ **Teams** Open Swiss: Sun at 1:00pm

Guidelines for F2F play

We would appreciate pre-registration for those who intend to return to the club for table play. Pre-registration can be done in either of two ways:

(1) Email a copy of your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to **Jim Ochsner** at jpochsner@aol.com

(2) Come to the club on pre-registration days: May 26 and 27 from 2:00-4:00. Bring your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to be added to our eligibility list.

Other information:

- ◆ Covid vaccine completed
 - ◆ No food at tables
 - ◆ Masks OPTIONAL
-

KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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.

Upcoming Special Games

- ◆ Jun 22 North American Pairs (NAP) - Cypress NW
- ◆ Jun 23 North American Pairs (NAP) - Katy
- ◆ Jun 24 North American Pairs (NAP) - Cypress NW

For questions please call **Jim Warren** at 832-851-4745.

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

We are cancelling the game for Friday, June 25th. We will resume play at the April Sound Church on July 2. See you then.

Thank you for supporting our Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge game.

If you have any questions, as always contact Gerry at gerryearnest@gmail.com or 936-447-6958.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

LSBC is holding the Longest Day game on Thursday, June 24. There is a silent auction with a variety of things to bid on, including games with three experts, **John Erickson**, **Jeff Kroll** and **Thomas Rush**. Waterford crystal pieces will be awarded to the first place finishers in each strat. They were donated by LSBC president, **Kay Rice**.

Upcoming Special games

- ◆ Jun 21 Unit Championship
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WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY

Grand Reopening Party, June 21

We reopened the doors of WBA on Memorial Day, May 31st and have run in person games daily since. But now that we've shaken the rust off (which was surprisingly difficult), we want to celebrate with a Grand Reopening Party on Monday, June 21st. Reservations are required.

We will run three Unit Championship games, all starting at 10:30am: Open Pairs, 299r and 0-5.

We will serve sandwiches along with upgraded snacks: vegetable and fruit trays, chips and dip, and hors d'oeuvres, and we will have a cake. Of course, coffee and tea is always free. We would welcome your favorite side dishes, appetizers, and desserts.

Online games

- ◆ **Open Pairs** Tue, Thu at 3:00pm
Sat, Sun at 10:00am
Wed at 7:00pm
- ◆ **Limited Pairs** 49r: Sun at 9:45am
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, Sun at 1:00pm
- ◆ **Limited Pairs** 0-5: Mon at 10:30 with **Joyce Ryan**
199r: Fri at 10:30am
299r: Thu at 10:30a
- ◆ **Teams** Sun at 6:00pm
"8 is Enough" 3rd Friday at 7:00pm
- ◆ **Supervised** Tue at 2:30pm with **Tom Jahnke** and **Terry**

Guidelines for F2F play

We are relaxing our Covid-19 rules to allow food at the tables and will no longer have a 20 minute break during the game.

We still require that players show proof of vaccination. Bring your card with you or email a copy to the club. If you have already done so, you are covered.

**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

♠ 8753		♠ AQ6
♥ J83		♥ 1092
♦ KJ54		♦ 10932
♣ 65		♣ Q32
	N	♠ KJ42
	W — † — E	♥ Q765
	S	♦ 876
		♣ 74
		♠ 109
		♥ AK4
		♦ AQ
		♣ AKJ1098

The June 2021 *Bridge Bulletin* article of month is the "Challenge of the Month" on page 55. This situation is one where declarer exchanges one unnecessarily lost trick for two opportunities to discard.

Some players looking at this hand might ruff diamonds so as to minimize the diamond losers. That line of play will lead to a spade loser, a heart loser and a diamond loser, for down 1 in the 5♣

contract.

Instead of minimizing diamond losers, declarer must pitch a spade rather than ruff the third diamond. Even though the opponents win two diamond tricks, declarer has set up dummy's fourth diamond to take care of the heart loser.

The correct line of play on the trump lead:

1. Win the opening trump lead in hand and play another round, exhausting opponents' trump. Note that the ♣Q is still on the board.
2. Play ♦A, then the ♦Q, losing to the ♦K.
3. West will win the ♦K and likely switch to a spade. Win the A; do NOT try the finesse.
4. Lead the ♦T and pitch the other spade.
5. West will win the ♦J, but you will win any return.
6. Go to the board with the ♣Q and lead the ♦9, pitching the small heart.
7. Claim.

The key to this hand is to recognize that one way to minimize losers is to create winners on which losers can be pitched.

Other articles considered:

- ◆ "It's Your Call," Deal 6 (p. 43). Some experts shared their logic on why and how they would defend: minimizing declarer's ruff, expecting a bad split after hearing a preempt. Others explaining what a 4H cue bid means in that auction.
- ◆ "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 44). Deal 1 illustrates how your approach varies when your stopper in their suit gets knocked out immediately in a notrump contract. In Deal 2, you recognize that the lead of a 2 against a notrump contract normally tells declarer that the opening leader has four cards in that suit. You also see that if you need a certain card (the ♣K) to be in a certain defender's hand to make the contract, you should play for that layout.
- ◆ "Parrish the Thought" by Adam Parrish (p. 45). If the opening leader doesn't cash a high honor in a specific suit, he is unlikely to hold the AK. You should use that information when you declare.
- ◆ "Reasoning with Robert" by Robert Todd (p. 46). Todd covers several options for opener's second bid in a 2/1 auction: balanced hands, fast arrival, splintering in support of responder's suit. He also recommends opening 1NT with 15-17 HCP even if holding a five-card major.
- ◆ "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p.51). Helms discusses forcing and non-forcing actions after partner overcalls.
- ◆ "Mike's Bridge Lesson" by Mike Lawrence (p. 52). A forcing defense sets a contract that would otherwise make.
- ◆ "The Real Deal" by Larry Cohen (p. 55). Cohen demonstrates the need to overtake to set the contract.
- ◆ "Boehm on Bridge" by August Boehm (p.56). Boehm suggests playing the card the card you are known to hold and give the declarer the opportunity to make a mistake.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES...?

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

- Deal:** 4
- West (Robot):** ♠ 10873, ♥ AQJ652, ♦ AK4
- North (Robot):** ♠ Q65, ♥ QJ95, ♦ K107, ♣ QJ8
- East (Robot):** ♠ J1074, ♥ 642, ♦ 83, ♣ 10953
- South (texashen):** ♠ AK9832, ♥ AK, ♦ 94, ♣ 872
- Bidding:** 1♦ Pass, 2♦ 2♠, Pass 4♠, Pass Pass
- Score:** 4♠ South, NS: 0, EW: 0

West	North	East	South
1♦	P(1)	P	1♠
2♦	2♠	P	3♠(2)
P	4♠		

(1) *Yep. The ♦K is in a good place, but it's still a bad 11 points, no aces, just the one king and flat. Subtract a point for being flat; subtract another one for having no aces.*

(2) *15-16 points, a borderline 4♠ bid, prime values, and a six-card suit headed by the AK*

West begins by cashing the ♣AK and ♦A, his "book" against the 4♠ contract. He then tries the ♦Q, which we win with the ♦K.

As long as trumps are not 4-0, we can easily take the rest of the tricks by pulling trump and claiming.

Now is the time to consider how to handle a 4-0 split. If West has all four, we are going down. If East has all four, we can make the contract by finessing against the ♠J and ♠T. So we cash the ♠Q first, hoping both opponents follow. West discards.

Therefore, we need to lead spades twice from dummy (the ♣Q is the second entry) through East, finessing the ♠9.

Making 4♠ resulted in a 92.9% board. Seven of the ten 4♠ contracts went down.

So, what **are** the chances of a 4-0 split? Absent any information, the likelihood of a 4-0 split is about 9.6%. However, we have information from the auction. West has shown six diamonds, leaving only seven empty spots in his hand for the non-diamonds. East has two diamonds at most, and 11 empty spots to hold the four trump. It is highly likely that East has at least three trump and very possible that East has all four. Based on the information from the auction, we calculate the chance of East having all four trump at 10.8% and the chance of West having all four trump at 1.1%.



Jeff Kroll & Sam Khayatt
texas.blue.hen@gmail.com