



Unit 174 Newsletter November 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 additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



President's Message

7th President's Message

It appears that the pandemic we have all lived through for almost 2 years is coming to an end. No movies, very limited sports, no F2F bridge, no vacations, and limited socializing for almost 2 years. But this drought appears to be over. Even the Astros' season finally ended. Watching the Rockets and Texans is not nearly as much fun! (Me personally, I enjoy college sports). But fortunately, in our home at least, we have finally mastered NETFLIX, PRIME, HULU, Peacock, and all the rest. It took quite a while. We also learned about QR codes.

But it is time to start thinking about getting back to a new version of

our pre-pandemic lives. Friends and families are getting together and making holiday plans. Cruise ships are sailing and airplanes are flying! On-line bridge was a life-saver, and will always be available 24-7. But it is time to get back to F2F bridge again. In Houston, there are community center games M-T-Th-F. Clear Lake and BCOH offer a full schedule. Most of the other clubs in our unit are also getting back to F2F, and there are rumors of a possible new club in the works. And with the NABC in Austin starting November 25, soon followed by our own LSR beginning on January 24, 2022, things seem to slowly be getting back to normal in our bridge world.

These events will be a great way to meet new friends, reunite with old (!) or long-time ones, or take one of the courses offered (Director's or Teacher's). It's time to get out of the rut that online bridge created- playing at home in our jammies with access to the refrigerator, tv, and cell phones! We hope everybody supports these wonderful tournaments.

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:

Bryan: Richard M Baker

Conroe: Robert D Fecht

Friendswood: Carolyn A Hardy

Houston: Dr. Tricia C Adcock, Dr. Paul M Horvitz, Patty Romigh, Irene White

Katy: Mary K Hancock

Kingswood: Myrtle P Dean, Catharine A McDonald

League City: Marilyn K Hakim

Livingston: Sal Guerrieri

Montgomery: Terri Morrison

Missouri City: Glen Petrick

Pearland: Edward P Sheridan

Porter: Tom Lyda, and Vicki Lyda

Tomball: Rita Zwartkruis,

The Woodlands: Betty S McNabb

Seabrook: Cheri A Rose

Spring: Marcia S Cohen, John S Heist

Sugarland: Nancy J Cox, Lawrence Tetzlaff, Roberta Tetzlaff

Welcome! We are glad you are here :-)

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL for September 21. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master (5 Masterpoints) (196 in Unit 174)

Jane Martin, Ellen Singer

Club Master (20 Masterpoints) (204 in Unit 174)

Carter Nash, Ellen T Rochelle, Dr. Daniel P Urban

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints) (214 in Unit 174)

Elizabeth A Caballero, Cynthia Macholan, Daniel

Macholan, Edward Scott

Regional Master (Masterpoints 100+) (204 in Unit 174)

Jennifer S Armstrong, Gulden Burdett, Scott B Cantor, Mahlon E First, Gretchen Y Lindquist, James W Moore, Robin P Ladin, Nancy K Small, Paul M Ward

NABC Master (200 + Masterpoints) (190 in Unit 174)

Kathy L'Hommedieu, Ying C Pin, Utako Tomeda, Sara M Rowe

Life Master (100 in Unit 174)

Gregory Andrews, Helen B Hollis, Michael P O'Shea

Bronze Life Master (255 in Unit 174)

Marcia J Lindsey, Carol M McCord, Keith L Ritter

Silver Life Master (184 in Unit 174)

R J Englert, Billie J Graves, Mr Ronald Schulman

Ruby Life Master (163 in Unit 174)

Helen Pruitt

Gold Life Master (104 in Unit 174)

Chris J Kollenberg

Sapphire Life Master (67 in Unit 174)

Robin P Ladin

Total Unit 174 Members: 2,332

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!

Member News

We are proud of our 4 Unit 174 players, **Shawn Quinn, Eddie Wold, Bob Morris, and Dan Morse** for winning the World Team Championships and qualifying for the 2021 World Team Championship to be played in March of 2022 in Italy.

174 Unit News

ACBL/BBO Online Games

Daily Games on BBO - Two kinds of events are held every day on BBO - Support Your Club Games and Daylong Tournaments.

Support Your Club Games: These pair events are held on BBO three times a day (10 a.m., 5:10 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Eastern time), and the majority of the game fees will be given to your local club to help during this difficult time. The games award black points and your partner may be any other ACBL member with a BBO account. Registration opens two hours before each game time.

Daylong Tournaments: A solo event, this kind of event is played with BBO's robots. You have up to 24 hours to complete your game,

and it doesn't have to be played all at once. You can even pause in the middle of a hand. Register anytime, and you'll have until midnight Eastern time to finish the 18 boards.

Virtual Clubs

Visit your local club from home with a game in a Virtual Club on BBO. These games are the same as the regular club games held at the club, and they are similar to the Support Your Club Games (just at your club's typical game time). [If your usual club is not yet a Virtual Club, have them contact club@acbl.org for more information.](mailto:club@acbl.org)

For tips on how to play with BOTS

- <https://youtu.be/2ABtF9yL5u4>

Online Events

Grand National Teams (GNT) Club Qualifying in December 2021

2x regular club points, 50% red, 50% black

[Reservations Open for Austin NABC!](#)

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.



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](#)

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.**



Apple Clubs Holiday Party!!! December 13, 2021 Save the Date!

The Apple Clubs are combining efforts and will host a Holiday

Party on December 13 at Tracy Gee!!! In order to minimize the chance of Covid transmission, we need your help with the following:

1. Reservations **ARE required!** You can reserve with Brigitte Sandifer at 281- 494-1464 or sandiferdb@gmail.com.
2. The event will be catered by Demeris BBQ. Please **Do Not Bring any Food.** The clubs will provide bottled water and sodas.
3. Serving will begin at 10:45 am and cease at 11:15 am. The serving tables will be cleared at that time. At 11:25 prior to boards being distributed, the tables must be cleared and wiped down. We'll provide wipes for that.

Thanks for your help to make the event safe and enjoyable. The entry fee remains at \$3/person.

Brigitte Sandifer and Paul Cuneo

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

www.BridgeWebs.com/bcoh

**Mentor/Mentee Games - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm,
Contact Roxie Walker for reservations: 713-203-5877 or
roxiew@hotmail.com**

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

“8 is Enough” - November 23rd at 10:30 am - (Register at the club)

Beverages and snacks provided for all F2F games

Proof of vaccination required for all F2F games



**Thanksgiving Celebration
November 20th**

Come join us and give thanks for our wonderful friendships, delicious food, and a fun game of bridge. The meal will be

served at 11:00 am, followed by games. The 299er will begin at 11:50 and Open will begin at noon. Please feel free to bring a side dish or dessert, meat will be provided. To make the day run smoothly we ask that you sign up through

www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh. If you need a partner, you can request it and one will be provided. We look forward to seeing everyone.



**Save the date: Winter
Holiday Party December
11th**

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

Choose Houston - BBO Online Games

Online Games for all levels every day!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:50 AM	199er						
9:55 AM				0-50 FLM Gemini			
10:00 AM	499er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM						199er	
12:00 PM						Open	
2:45 PM	299er	0-100 FLM Discovery	299er	0-100 FLM Discovery	299er		
3:00 PM	749er						
3:05 PM		0-20 FLM Apollo	Open				
3:30 PM	Open			Open			
7:00 PM		Open	3:00 PM	Open		Open	

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

CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB

Following CDC recommendations, Clear Lake Bridge Club will require 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. For more information: <https://site.pianola.net/clear-lake/reopening-plan-schedule-requirements>

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

Activate your life...come back to the tables! And when you do play online, please remember to CHOOSE HOUSTON!

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**
- **STAC TUESDAY DECEMBER 7**
- **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

FUTURE LIFE MASTERS (FLM)

FLM had their second Road Show to Clear Lake Bridge Club Wednesday, Nov 10th. Emphasis was made on the FLMers as they played in the open game. Breakfast and a speaker were also featured. Thanks, Clear Lake BC, for hosting.

We continue to focus on our newcomers, and our attendance is increasing. We have had over 170 tables playing online. The camaraderie promoted has been excellent and has perpetuated additional interest and participation.

SCHEDULE OF GAMES

APOLLO: 0-20 Masterpoints

Tuesday: 3:00 pm **Houston U174 FLM Apollo 0-20**
Assisted Play

2nd Saturday: 9:00 am **Houston FLM Apollo 0-20**
Assisted Play & Board Review

GEMINI: 0-50 Masterpoints

Monday: 4:00 pm **D16 0-50 FLM Gemini**

Thursday: 9:55 am **ChooseHouston 0-50 FLM**
Gemini

DISCOVERY: 0-99 Masterpoints

Tuesday: 2:45 pm **ChooseHouston FLM Discovery**

4th Wednesday: 3:10 pm **ChooseHouston FLM Mixer**
Madness

Thursday: 2:45 pm **ChooseHouston FLM Discovery**

ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE A BBO SCREEN NAME WITH AN ACBL# IN THEIR BBO ACCOUNT.

ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE JOIN US!

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

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.

KT Duplicate Morning Bridge

KT Bridge will suspend morning-sanctioned bridge games during the holiday season. We plan to resume operation in January next year. I want to thank all of our players for their support. Have a happy and busy holiday season.

Bob Lee

713 557 4077

Relee321@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.

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.

The Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club will be celebrating the Holiday Season with our annual Christmas Party at April Sound Country Club. We will gather on Friday, December 17th, for our usual game day in the Lakeside Room at 10:30. Our delicious plated lunch will be served by the Club. The cost for the game and lunch is \$25/per person, cash only. Jean Jardine, one of our members, will be collecting the reservations and money. Please contact Jean at 936-242-6617 or 713-562-2728. Her email is j7jardine@gmail.com.

As a reminder, we will not be playing on November 26th, the Friday after Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing everyone back on December 3rd. Please contact me if you have any questions about playing in our very friendly games on Friday.

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. Games are \$5 per person. Proof of vaccination is mandatory, and masks are optional. The Lone Star Bridge Club is located at St. Paul UMC, 1100 W Semands, Conroe.

Free Class by Jeff Kroll at 11:00 at LSBC on December 6.
Class subject: Part 2- when to open 1NT with a five-card major; as well as when to play in a no-trump contract and when to play in your 8-card major suit fit (when to use Stayman). And finally, how to identify a singleton on the opening lead.

NO GAME ON NOVEMBER 22 - (repairs being made by the church) and NO GAME ON NOVEMBER 25 due to Thanksgiving..

December 6th, 7th, and 9th will be STAC games.

Proof of Covid Vaccination is Mandatory and masks are optional. We have coffee and bottled water and individually wrapped snacks.

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



Our Christmas Party will be Monday, December 13th (RESERVATIONS are REQUIRED).

There will be NO GAMES on Thursday, December 23rd, or

Monday, December 27th, due to Christmas.

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



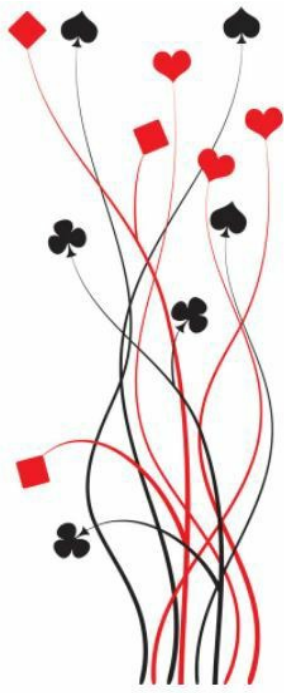
Christmas luncheon will be on Thursday, December 16th.

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

Westside Bridge Academy

Westside Bridge Academy is Alive & Well!



We want to thank the Onstotts and the Breihans for their hard work and dedication to the Houston Bridge Community.

As you are aware, Westside has had to close its physical doors due to Covid. We want to keep the Westside Bridge community active virtually. Westside Bridge Academy formed an alliance with BAND Online to provide you, their players the best online bridge experience. WBA will be continuing this alliance because we believe this offers you a wonderful array of games and playing opportunities. Please know that this is a revenue-sharing agreement and your dollars are staying in Houston!

It has always been WBA's goal to be the premier teaching club in the Houston area. That remains the goal. We will be trying some innovative teaching ideas using online formats until we can gather face to face safely. Keep on the lookout in the near future for some fun announcements!

We hope you will support WBA until we can meet safely in person at the tables. We are excited to begin a new chapter with you!

Please don't hesitate to contact manager.westsidebridgeacademy@gmail.com with any questions.

Regards,
Shawn Quinn
Club Manager

 **Guest Editors**

End plays at Bridge by Jack Lavigne

What is the best way to play the following suit combination?

North

♥ 87

South

♥ AQ

Most would answer that one leads the 7 and plays the Q. You will win two tricks if the K is onside. That is a good answer. The simple

finesse will work 50% of the time.

The very best way to play this suit combination is to have your left-hand opponent lead a heart. If that happens you win two tricks 100% of the time.

However, your left-hand opponent may not be so gracious as to lead hearts for you. That is where the end play comes in. Check out this situation:

	<u>North</u>	
	♥ 87	
	♣ 7	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♥ K6		♥ J109
♣ 10		♣ -
	<u>South</u>	
	♥ AQ5	
	♣ -	

Imagine that these are the last three cards and North is on lead. If you lead a club and pitch a heart, West will be forced to lead into your AQ of hearts.

This is an example of an end play. Broadly speaking, the end play is the application of the elementary principle that it is more advantageous for your opponent to lead into your tens than it is for you to play it yourself.

Of course, a bit of preparatory work is required.

Look at the following example.

You open 2N and partner raises to 6N.

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ KJ5	
	♥ 874	
	♦ KQ7	
	♣ KQ72	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ 873		♠ 1092
♥ K62		♥ J1093
♦ 532		♦ 10864
♣ J1094		♣ 85
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ AQ64	
	♥ AQ5	
	♦ AJ9	
	♣ A63	

West leads the J of clubs and you count your sure tricks: 4 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs. 11 tricks total.

If the heart finesse works or if clubs break 3-3, you will have made your slam.

After winning the A of clubs, start by running the spades and pitching a heart. Spades break 3-3 and on the last spade, West pitches a diamond and East a club.

Now lead the A and a diamond to the K, all following.

We now lead the K of clubs trying for a 3-3 club break but East shows out, pitching a heart. Before taking the heart finesse, cash the Q of diamonds. West shows out, pitching a heart.

If you have been paying attention you now know the following cards are left:

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ -	
	♥ 87	
	♦ -	
	♣ Q7	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ -		♠ -
♥ xx		♥ xxx
♦ -		♦ 10
♣ 109		♣ -
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ -	
	♥ AQ5	
	♦ -	
	♣ 3	

You don't know if West or East holds the K of hearts, but it doesn't matter. Cash the Q of clubs and lead the club 7, throwing West in.

West will be forced to lead a heart and you will make your slam independent of the location of the heart K.

You are happy to see that West holds that card, so those players who try the heart finesse will be going down.

Summary

End plays aim at exploiting the principle that it is more advantageous for your opponent to lead into your tens than it is for you to play it yourself.

Interesting Hand

Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

7	3NTS=	600	10.4											
Refresh			29.6											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="border: 2px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 30px; height: 30px; text-align: center; line-height: 30px; margin-bottom: 5px;">7</div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>N Robot</p> <p>♠A10986532</p> <p>♥8</p> <p>♦J</p> <p>♣975</p> </div> </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>3NT</p> <p>11-21 HCP; solid 7-card ♦; 12-22 total points; partial stop in ♠; p</p> </div>											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>W Robot</p> <p>♠J7</p> <p>♥K9432</p> <p>♦108</p> <p>♣J1086</p> </div>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>E Robot</p> <p>♠KQ4</p> <p>♥QJ75</p> <p>♦765</p> <p>♣AQ3</p> </div>
W	N	E	S											
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦											
Pass	Pass	Pass	3NT											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>S texashen</p> <p>♠</p> <p>♥A106</p> <p>♦AKQ9432</p> <p>♣K42</p> </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>3NT South</p> <p>0 0</p> </div>											

	North	South	
		1♦	
	1♠	3N	<i>Seven solid diamonds; expect to make 3N if partner has a control in his suit. Could make a slam if partner has a fitting hand.</i>
<i>No slam interest.</i>	P		

A heart is led to the queen. This is the best lead as it cuts off communications with our hands and sets up the hearts for the defense. All we can take are seven diamonds and the ♥A. So, we duck the heart and let East win.

East cashes the ♣A. Defense is hard.

Cashing the ♣A hands us the contract as we now take nine tricks: ♥A, ♣K, and seven diamonds.

Comments on the auction

With only four losers, some players might have opened 2♣. We did not do so for the following reasons:

1. We do not want to play defense with this hand. If the opponents interfere and partner makes a penalty double, we won't know what

to do. Does partner have a hand that will punish the opponents by himself or will he expect us to take a lot of defensive tricks? This is an offensive monster with limited defense. Good opponents interfere over 2♣ a lot.

2. We want to conserve bidding space as we do not know where we want to play. This hand screams diamonds; however, minor suits are on the bottom rung of contracts. We are likely to want to play notrump if partner has spades stopped. We would want to play hearts if partner has five hearts or even four good ones

3. There is a bidding sequence that well-describes this hand with its solid seven-card suit and some outside strength: a 3N jump rebid. A 3N jump rebid does NOT show a balanced hand and a lot of points. Standard bidding systems have a structure that allows us to show a balanced hand of any strength. So, we use the jump rebid of 3N to show this hand.

Some players might consider opening this hand a gambling 3N. There is too much outside strength for a gambling 3N open, which typically shows no more than a queen outside the seven-card suit.

November 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes Jeff Kroll Sam Khayatt

The articles we think the majority of ACBL members will benefit the most from are:

1. "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn:
 - a. Problem 1 (p. 36) Bridge Bulletin auction. It is appropriate to raise partner's possible four-card major with three-card support when you have an outside singleton.
 - b. Problem 5 (p.38) Bridge Bulletin auction. At matchpoint scoring, it is often appropriate to play in a 5-2 major fit rather than a longer minor suit fit.
2. "Parrish the Thought" by Adam Parrish (p. 45). It is standard to make a balancing bid when the opponents have shown an eight-card major-suit fit and are about to play in at the two-level. This is especially true when the suit is hearts. If a good player lets you play 2, it's likely he has a trump stack.
3. "Lessons Learned" by Michael Berkowitz (p 48). Defending when you know that partner no longer can get in. If a killing play is not available to you, at least avoid a poor play.
4. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p 51). When to use a Jacoby transfer and a subsequent bid to 4♥ or 4♠ vs. when to use a Texas transfer. A Jacoby transfer followed by 4NT is a quantitative bid. However, a Texas Transfer followed by 4NT is ace-asking (key

card or Blackwood).

5. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p. 53). Think at trick one. Making your slam at IMPS requires giving the defense, at trick one, a trick to which they are not entitled, so you have the entries to set up dummy's long suit to make your contract.

6. "Defensive Maneuvers" by Paul Ross (p. 54). Figure out that it's appropriate to duck your ♥K, and remember to signal partner that you want hearts continued.

7. "Challenge of the Month" (p. 55). A "take all your chances" deal.

8. "Boehm on Bridge" by August Boehm (p 56). A clever deception play at trick one. Taking a trick with an unnecessarily high card to keep the defense from finding your true weakness.

9. "Better Bidding with Bergen" by Marty Bergen (p. 57). It is often correct to preempt aggressively in third seat - especially with favorable vulnerability. The weaker you are the more likely the opps are to have game or slam.

10. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p. 59, p. 61), Deal 2.

Respecting a five-card suit, even when it's weak. In this case, setting it up is the way to make your contract.

11. "Bridge with the Abbott" by David Bird (p 64). Cutting off communications with the dummy.

Dlr: South	♠ K 8 6 4 3 2		
Vul: E-W	♥ AK 3 2		
IMPs	♦ —		
	♣ 6 5 4		
	♠ A 5		
	♥ J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4		
	♦ —		
	♣ A Q 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	4♥
Opening lead: ♥Q. Plan the play.			

Our Favorites

"Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p. 53) - *Giving up a trick to ensure the contract*

A lazy declarer will win the ♥A and risk the contract on the club finesse. A 50% play.

If the declarer wins a high heart and then sets up the spades, before risking the contract on the

club finesse, that's an improvement. As long as the spades are not 4-1, he will make the contract.

However, they split 4-1, 28.3% percent of the time. Still, not bad. He can set up the spades 71.7% of the time and, if they don't split, then take the club finesse. That will give her an 85.8% chance at making her contract, a big improvement over the 50% of a straight finesse.

However, at IMPS, overtricks are small change, so the declarer can make this contract 100% of the time by letting West win the ♥Q!! There are still three entries to dummy.

Assume West next leads a spade. Of course, the declarer will take

♠A, then the ♠K, before using the heart entries. A spade is led (and ruffed). If the spades split 3-2, the declarer can claim. If spades split 4-1, the declarer must use a high heart to lead and ruff a fourth spade. The second high heart is used to reach dummy (since it was not wasted on the first trick). Declarer will use dummy's last two spades to pitch the losing clubs.

The problem with winning a high heart at trick one is that both high hearts are needed to get to dummy for the two spade ruffs required to make the contract.

		♠ J 10 7	
		♥ 7 3	
		♦ K Q J 10	
		♣ Q J 8 2	
♠ K Q 3			♠ A 8 5 2
♥ Q 9 8 6 2	W	N	♥ 10 5 4
♦ 9 4 3 2	+	E	♦ 8 7 5
♣ A	S	S	♣ 7 5 4
		♠ 9 6 4	
		♥ A K J	
		♦ A 6	
		♣ K 10 9 6 3	

“Boehm on Bridge: Deception - part 8” by August Boehm (p 56) - *Hiding the weakness*

After a 1N - 3N auction, West leads a fourth-best ♥6.

Trick one is the time for declarer to think. Declarer sees the weakness in spades. He must convince the defense that there is

a weakness somewhere else - like hearts. East plays the ♥T. So, South should conceal the ♥J by winning with the ♥A.

West knows that South has the ♥K, as East would have played it, not the ♥T, at trick one. But it sure looks like East has the ♥J when South wins the ♥A.

Declarer now plays the ♣6 (concealing the ♣K and ♣3) and West must win the ♣A.

At most tables, West will lead another heart and declarer will take 11 tricks: three hearts, four diamonds, and four clubs.

South's deception won the day. If East is a sophisticated defender, he will play the ♣7 under the ♣A. Maybe that will message West that East has a value in the higher suit (spades) and not in hearts. If an inspired West cashes the ♠KQ and leads a third spade, the contract is set: four spades and the ♣A for the defense.

Bridge with the Abbott by David Bird (p. 64) - *Cutting communication.*

Dir: South: ♠ 963			
Vul: N-S ♥ 852			
♦ 974			
♣ QJ74			
♠ KJ10842		♠ 75	
♥ 1073	N W ← E S	♥ 6	
♦ J83		♦ Q1052	
♣ 2		♣ 1098653	
♠ AQ			
♥ AKQJ94			
♦ AK6			
♣ AK			
West	North	East	South
<i>The</i>	<i>Mother of</i>	<i>Bro.</i>	<i>Sister</i>
<i>Abbot</i>	<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>Grace</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			6♥

2NT was meant as a second negative. We prefer 3C, the cheaper minor, to show a bust - no ace or king. With at most a two-loser hand, South insisted on the small slam.

East led the ♣2. South won the ♣A and cashed the ♥A.

At the third trick, South led the ♣K. West must resist the urge to trump it. If he does trump it, that will be the only trick he takes. Declarer will get in, pull the last trump and reach dummy

with the ♥4 of hearts to the ♥8. He will then pitch the losing diamond and spade on the ♣QJ, making six.

Declarer tried to set up the ♥8 as a dummy entry by leading the ♥9. Again, West must resist the urge to win the ♥T. If he wins the ♥T, establishing the dummy entry, it will be the only trick he takes.

By giving up the free heart trick, eventually, the defense got a diamond and a spade to defeat the contract. By refusing to trump, West cut declarer's communications to dummy. Declarer could pitch his losers on dummy's clubs.

From the Editors

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!

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 in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and event title to unit174newsletter@gmail.com and your name will be added to the request for newsletter information email list for next month.

Happy Thanksgiving!

May your trumps be bountiful!



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