



Unit 174 Newsletter April 2022



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

12th President's Message

It has been quite a year. Last year, we were entering year 2 of a pandemic so our Annual Meeting was held virtually, and we did not have a quorum. We knew our June Sectional was canceled but had high hopes for the August and October Sectional tournaments. They were also canceled. F2F bridge was slowly returning, but people were nervous and table counts were low. Then in November, the NABC was successfully held in Austin, so we knew that we would be having our Lone Star regional in January. The turnout was not as good as we hoped it would be, but it was better than we expected.

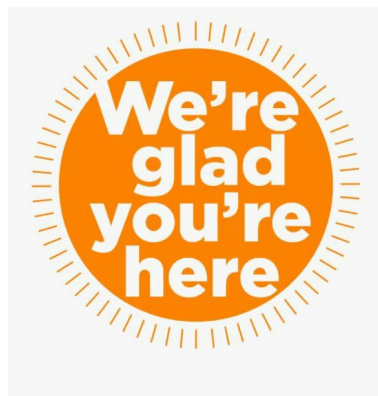
We just held our April Election Sectional, and again it was better than we expected. Everyone seemed to like the new venue at the Arabian Shriners, and we had a successful coffee and soda bar set up. Congratulations to the newly-elected Members of the Unit 174 Board of Directors. They are John Dubose, Byron Fackenthal, and Sarah Springer. We all look forward to seeing everyone at the Early Summer Sectional from June 3rd thru the 5th at the same location.

Thanks to all of you for the support you gave during this trying time,

and for understanding what we have been dealing with. And a very special thank you to the great group of Board members that worked so hard all year. We will surely miss Lauri Laufman, Joyce Gore, and Dave Becker. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as President of Unit 174. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.
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:

Conroe: Michael Fearnow, Cynthia T Hinson

Houston: Mrs. Iva Sue Cooper, Kelly Harp, Amy S Hart, Sarah Hillyer, Bitsy Klein, Michael T Klein Kelley Palmer, Salvatore J Romano, Jan Watson, Sandra Wotiz

Humble: Mr. Victor P Tong

League City: Mr. Jeff Weed

Katy: Antoun Henri

Richmond: Karla L Custer

Sugarland: Robert L Rolnick

Woodlands: Joanne Barnwell

Welcome!



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: Elizabeth Bradley, Patsy Lanclos, Alisandra Tieke, Zach Tieke, Edwin Tumlinson

***Club Master:* Betty Clarke, David Finger, Edward McKee,
Nancy Wright, Stuart Wright**

***Sectional Master:* Elizabeth Fischer, Gerald Fritz, Helen
Schwisow, Judy Willig**

***Regional Master:* Manju Manek**

***Advanced NABC Master:* Debbie Cole**

***Life Master:* Kathleen Pflueger, Rhonwyn Weissman**

***Bronze Life Master:* Kathryn Kent, Adolph Kubicek**

***Ruby Life Master:* Paddy Fiorino**

***Gold Life Master:* Shih-Ming Yang**

***Sapphire Life Master:* Harold Copeland, Thomas Rush**

***Diamond Life Master:* Dolores Aquino, Allen Wolf**

Total Unit 174 Members - 2312

174 Unit News

199ER NITE CLUB

*Ready to Graduate from
the 0 to 99 Game?*

D16'S 199ER NITE CLUB GAME ON BBO IS YOUR NEXT STEP!

7 DAYS A WEEK AT 6:05 PM CST

- ✓ Recent graduates of the 0 to 99 group can play in a game with players of the same ability.
- ✓ Work during the day? Graduates continue to grow skills at a time that's "worker friendly".
- ✓ Safe environment where no sharks are allowed, because the game is limited to 199 mpts.
- ✓ Clubs benefit too and continue to receive payments for their participating players.

Clubs must be signed up to participate, just like for the 99ER NITE CLUB game.

*Contact Nancy Strohmer for details:
nastrohmer@yahoo.com*

New Game in Town



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 ACADEMY OF WEST HOUSTON

Grand Opening - Open Game



The grand opening of our **Open Game is Thursday, Apr 21st. We have limited space so kindly make reservations here.**

As of Apr 20, our I/N Wednesday weekly game is open to pairs whose average masterpoints are 4000 or fewer.

Wednesdays - limited

Thursdays - Open

10:30 a.m.

Arabia Shriners

10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person - \$6 for upgraded games
- Reservations appreciated
- Proof of vaccination required
- Masks optional
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- Joyce Ryan, David Henke, and Susan Kaplan directors

Charity Month

April is Charity month and all games are upgraded with money being raised for the Houston Food Bank.

To make reservations, click [here](#).

Need a partner? Try [Pianola's partner finder](#) or contact Joyce Ryan at JoyceRyanBridge@gmail.com.

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

www.BridgeWebs.com/bcoh (Check for frequent updates and information)

Do you receive our weekly newsletter every Sunday? If not, please contact B7rnitddgbel@gmail.com

BCOH **Online Choose Houston**

Mentor/Mentee Games: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm (Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: mlinkins@swbell.net

BCOH Open Games (Face 2 Face)

***Pre-registration is not required for our weekly scheduled games**

Monday: 11:55 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 am

SAVE THE DATES:

"Open Swiss Teams" - March 22th/May 24th at 10:30 am (Register at the club)

May 7th - First Saturday F2F game. Potluck lunch at 11:00 (bring your favorite dish). The game will start at 12:00 pm.

May 30th - Celebration for Sam Khayatt being named District 16 "Teacher of the Year" in conjunction with our Hot Diggity Dog Day game.

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

Monday Mornings with Bill

Bill Riley will give a series of lectures on various bridge topics. These topics are geared to the advanced beginner and intermediate player but are open to all. Other topics, in addition to those specified below, will include: Transfers, Interfering with the Opponent opening 1NT, Doubles, Nuances of 2/1, to name just a few.

Bill Riley is a Diamond Life Master, certified ACBL director, as well as an outstanding and entertaining teacher. Having taught Pediatrics for 40 years, he is now teaching bridge.

The usual cost of the lecture is \$2.00, which we will collect at

the door [when we verify COVID vaccination cards for those at the club for the first time].

Should there be enough participants, there will be a 499er game as well as an open game on those Mondays.

Initial offerings:

*** check the BCOH website for topics and dates***

We are bringing back the 0-50 game Tuesday mornings beginning March 22.

Julie Halperin will give a free lesson from 9:30 to 10:10. The game begins at 10:30. The game fee is \$5.00. We will set up partnerships for those who need it.

Text Julie at 713-857-8004 with questions or concerns. **Lessons are open to all!**

2 Over 1 Classes

Beginning May 11th for 5 weeks 2:30- 4:30 each Wednesday. Transition from Standard American with clear lessons from Julie Halperin (ACBL Best Practices Teacher). The cost is \$75.00 plus \$12 for Audrey Grant's Book.

CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE

BBO Online Games

Online Games for all levels every day! These dates will change if the ACBL has approved special games online so please check the Bridge Club of Houston and Clear Lake Bridge Club for updates.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	<i>Second Saturday only; hand review following the game →</i>					0-20 FLM Apollo	
9:50 AM	199er						
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 is located at 16614 Sea Lark Road Houston, TX 77062 - Telephone: 281 480-1911. We welcome all to any of our F2F games - open or limited or special. Enjoy games, a friendly environment, and challenging competitive games. Or visit the Virtual Club at BBO: "CHOOSE HOUSTON". The web page address is www.clearlakebridgeclub.org.

Visit the web page at www.clearlakebridgeclub.org for details on open games, I/N games, and special games.



March saw a great response and attendance to 8 is

Enough, Breakfast, Lesson and Game, and the Mentor-Mentee games. These very successful events will be continued in April. The April activities and game schedule follow below. CLBC also participated in the Charity Games benefiting Ukraine's relief efforts.



April activities include the regular game structure PLUS special games to promote an environment for all skill levels to have a place to enjoy the game of bridge, obtain new skills and play in a friendly, supportive club. Additionally, April will kick-off planning for The Longest Day events.

Regular Games

- Open Pairs - 10 AM Mon/Wed/Fri and 1 PM Saturday and Sunday games at 1 PM.
- Open Teams - Sunday 1 PM
- I/N (749 MPs) Games - Tues/Thur 10 AM

Special Games and Events

- Eight is Enough Team Game - May 1, 1 PM
- Mentor-Mentee - April 20, 1:30 PM (Lunch) and 2 PM game.

Breakfast, Lesson, and Bridge Game - April 20

Breakfast Tacos at 9 AM followed by a lesson "Bridge Revisited" by Marsha Shortt and the regular open game at 10 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.

Regular games are \$3.

Congratulations to Linda Rensi and Ted Bain for scoring 75% at our game on April 1.

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



ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE JOIN US!

FLM

EXCITING NEWS IN THAT WE HAVE HAD OVER 200 TABLES ONLINE TO DATE...

NEWCOMERS, SO MUCH FUN...YOU GET TO "MEET" NEW PLAYERS AT A SIMILAR LEVEL, ACCENTUATE YOUR OWN SKILLS, ETC.

DURING LAST WEEK'S SECTIONAL, WE HAD 2 1/2 TABLES ON FRIDAY AND THEN SOME OF OUR NEWCOMERS EVEN PLAYED IN THE OPEN ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. YEAH FOR THEM!

Come Play with Us!

FLM Schedule for the On-Line Games:

- **Apollo - 0-20 MPs**

Tuesday - 3:05 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 MPs**

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

- **Discovery - 0-99 MPs**

Tuesday - 2:45 pm - ChooseHouston FLM Discovery

Thursday - 2:45 pm - ChooseHouston FLM Discovery

We Encourage All of Our Newcomers to Join Us!

To learn more about our FLM Playing Groups,

CLICK HERE: [Future Life Masters](#)

FORT BEND DBC Sugar Land

FORT BEND DUPLICATE BRIDGE

WE ARE OPEN! COME PLAY LIVE BRIDGE!

OPEN GAME TUESDAYS AT 9 AM

- **MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED, BUT OPTIONAL.**
- **YOU MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED; BRING YOUR SHOT RECORD IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD IT VERIFIED BEFORE**
- **HAND SANITIZER THROUGHOUT THE PLAYING AREA**
- **COFFEE AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS**
- **WE USE BRIDGE MATE II BRIDGE PADS**
- **HAND RECORDS AFTER EVERY GAME**
- **NICE BALANCE OF FRIENDLY A, B, & C PLAYERS**
- **ENTRY \$6.00 PER PLAYER; OPEN OR UPGRADED GAMES**

ERIC WATSON

ewat2004@aol.com

832 287 9107

JACKS CONFERENCE CENTER

3232 AUSTIN PARKWAY

SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Katy DBC 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.

Regular games are \$3.

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 at 10:00 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 is located at Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

KT Duplicate Bridge Tuesday Game

When: the game will start at 11:30 am.

What: ACBL Sanctioned Game

Please write R. Lee at relee321@comcast.net for more information.

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

The Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes players and is open for face-to-face games. Games are held every Friday unless a date change is posted, at the April Sound Church, 67 1/2 April Wind Dr. South, Montgomery. Games begin at 10:30 am and are \$8.00. The LCDBC is nonprofit and very supportive of many charities throughout Montgomery County. To play at our club, we require covid vaccination, but masks are optional. Please bring your lunch, as there are refrigerators and microwaves for your use. We provide coffee, iced tea, and sweet and salty snacks.

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

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

The Lone Star Bridge Club in Conroe hosts two bridge games per week, Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 10:30. Table fees are

always \$5.00. Coffee, water, and snacks are available. Proof of Covid vaccination is required and masks are optional. Games are stratified and held in the Fellowship Hall of St Paul Methodist Church. 100 Semands, Conroe.

The first Monday of each month before the game, at 11 am, DLM Jeff Kroll teaches a lesson to benefit all levels of players.

We are excited to announce that the next class, Bridge 102 - Competitive Bidding, will start on Tuesday, April 19th, and run for six consecutive Tuesdays from 10 am till noon. The class is open to anyone who is interested in this important aspect of our game. The cost will be \$5 per lesson or \$25 for all six. Two Audrey Grant books will be available from the instructor. In addition to takeout doubles and overcalls, the class will include negative doubles and responsive doubles, as well as when to use opening weak two bids, strong two clubs opening bids, and preemptive opening bids at the three and four-level.

If you are interested in signing up for the class, please contact Linda Sutton at: lindasutton212@gmail.com. lindasutton212@gmail.com OR call Linda Sutton at 936-443-3600.

Please visit our website by clicking here: 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. 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 Duple at 979-324-8421
or richard.duble@yahoo.com.



Guest Editors

Time Changes Everything

Thomas Rush

15 April 2022

We've all heard it – heck, at our ages, we've all *seen* it – time changes everything, from the lines on our face to the mighty oak tree. Even the granite boulder is changed over time, through water erosion, frost-induced cracks, and plant roots splitting it.

Have you considered that the value of your hand changes over the course of the auction? That's right, it often does change, and change significantly. When your LHO bids spades, your KJ (doubleton) of spades may be worth closer to zero than four points. On a different hand, when partner bids a suit where you hold KJ doubleton, those two cards are worth significantly more than before she bid.

That's a relatively easy example; I hope you all "get" it. Here's a hand from the recent Houston Election Sectional where you're asked to evaluate cards in suits that have not been bid.

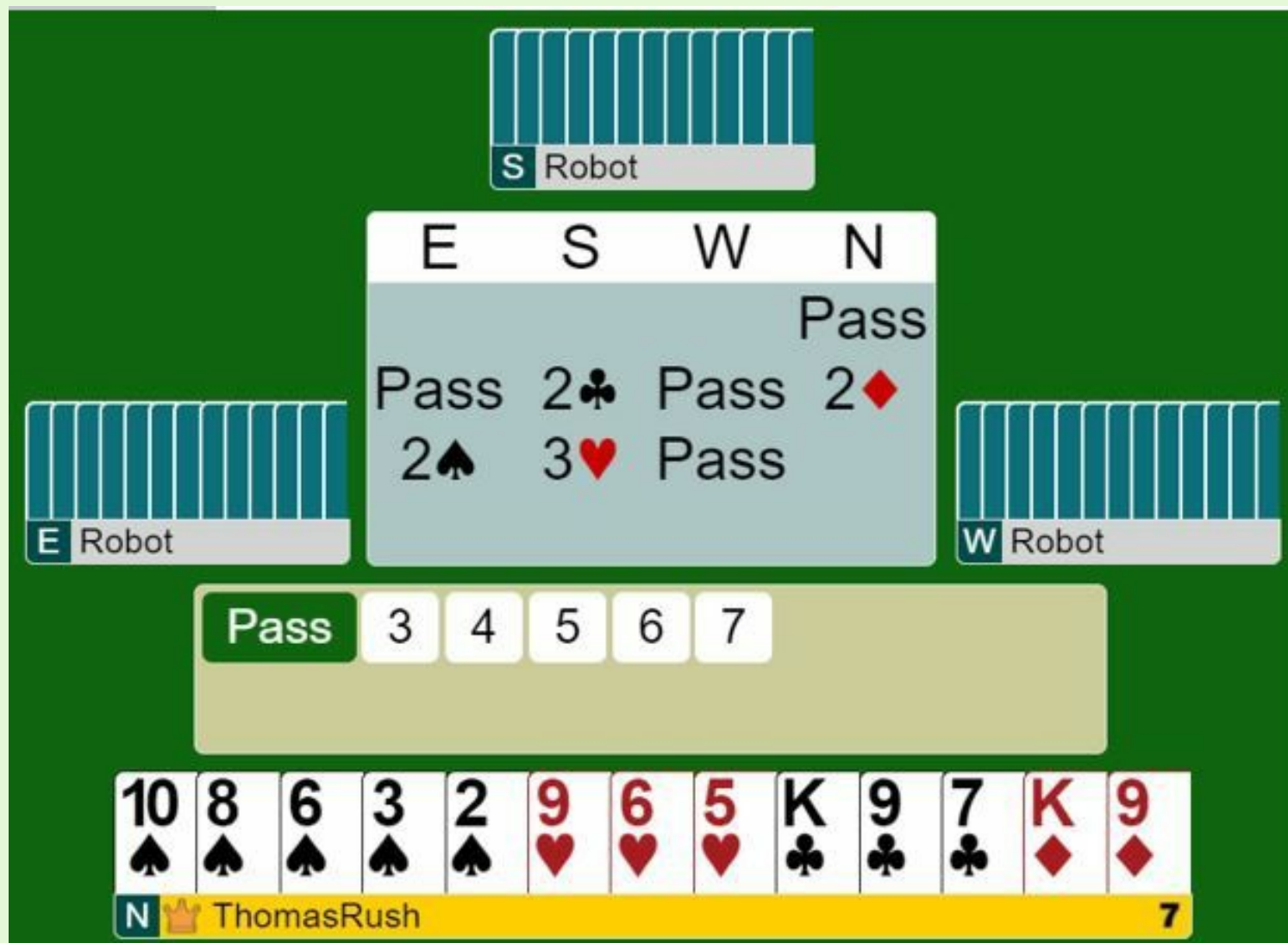
You pick up this unremarkable hand and have an easy pass as declarer. Then it gets interesting:

Your 2D bid was "negative or waiting"; you could have quite a good hand but no suit to bid.

What is your second call, over partner's 3H?

Let's think a bit about what partner could have done instead of bidding 3H, and then puzzle out what kind of hand he could have for his bid.

First, what would a double have meant? I'll suggest you'll profit most if you keep the double in play as a penalty double. By doubling, South is saying, "I have a big hand, and I believe our opponents have made a mistake. Our best score is probably defending and setting 2S doubled (unless there is something



exceptional about your hand).” I suggest you NOT use double as a takeout bid in auctions like this. Partner could have planned to rebid 2NT and have hefty spades.

Second, What should the 2C bidder’s pass mean? If double is a penalty, and opener has a ‘real’ 2C opener, perhaps his pass should be forcing and mean something like “I still have the big hand I started with, but I don’t have a clear bid. If you have a penalty double, double. Otherwise, make the call that best suits your hand (but you cannot pass).” Perhaps he had a 2NT rebid with two or three small spades, maybe a 3=4-4-2 or 2=3-5-3 shape without enough in spades to double, nor a good suit to bid.

If partner doesn’t have either of those types of hands, what can he have? First, look at your hand and the auction, and think about how many spades he’s likely to have. Overcaller is likely to have at least five spades for his overcall, and probably six. Since you have five(!), your partner is probably short.

Partner is likely to have at least six hearts. Five is possible, but with shortage in spades and a 1=5-4-3 shape, he might have passed to hear more from you (five-card suits can be deadly when the opponents start tapping you by leading your short suit right off).

3H is forcing (even if it weren’t, how could you pass now with your two kings?). What’s your bid going to be?

If you took the easy way out and settled for bidding 4H, you’re not thinking about the auction and how the value of your hand changes with each call of the auction! If partner has six hearts and a

singleton spade, he doesn't need much more than Ax in one minor and AQxx in the other to give him a great shot at twelve tricks opposite those "I only have two kings" of yours.

Given the above, what's the best way to explore to see if six hearts is possible? You CANNOT bid key card because partner could have a small doubleton spade. Make a vow to yourself to stop using RKC or Blackwood until **after** you know you have 1st- or 2nd-round control in every suit!

You could try bidding 4C as a cuebid, except that ... we can't cuebid until a trump suit has been established. Here, partner might think you have no fit for hearts, and some six-card club suit - that could lead to a disaster. 4D is likewise out of consideration.

What about 3S? While that can't be a suit, if you bid 3S and then support partner's hearts, he'll take it as a cuebid, showing a control in spades - which you certainly do not have! (Yes, 3S could have been a try for 3NT, but the cuebid inference will be strong if partner can't bid 3NT) I don't like a 3NT bid with your hand, you could easily lose four quick spade tricks playing 3NT, while 6H could be cold.

A jump to 4S would be a splinter (heart support and no more than one spade), not the message you want to convey!

What's left? Back in the Good Olde Days, they had a very special bid that could mean about six different things but was always clear in context. I'll give you the meaning in this auction, and explore the other meanings in a future article.

Bid 5H! When the opponents have bid a suit and we haven't cuebid it, a jump to five of our major asks, "Do you have a control in their suit?" Here, we are hoping that partner has a singleton or void in spades. If he has it, he can bid 6H with a good chance to make it. If not, he'll pass 5H and have a good chance to take 11 tricks. Yes, there is some risk that partner bids 6H with the Kx of spades, and it gets ruffed with a spade to the Ace and a spade back - but I guess we'll have to pay off to that chance.

The full hand:

Yes, there is some risk partner bids 6H with the Kx of spades and goes set with a spade to the Ace and a spade back - but I guess we'll have to pay off to that chance (not as big a chance as you might think; if East has six spades, then West will be void when South has



a doubleton).

Time changes everything – don't fall into the trap of thinking that six points is always "only six points".

April 2022 ACBL Bridge Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll Sam Khayatt

These are the articles that we believe will help our readers the most:

1. "Bridge By Numbers" by Simon Cocheme (p.28). When playing a strong 1 NT bid (15-17), the notrump bidder is almost twice as likely to have 15 points as 17 points. When responder has a poor nine-count, game is against the odds.
2. "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 4 (p.39). The **Bridge Bulletin** auction shows a reasonable way, missed by both contestant pairs, to find 6NT, the best matchpoint score.
3. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 3, (p 43). The majority of the panel won't bid 1♠ in response to partner's 1♥ opener with ♠T983 ♥Q83 ♦K ♣AJT75. Cohen and Meckstroth are the two 1♠ bidders; Robinson states that 1♠ is the worst response.
4. "Parrish the Thought: Feign a Pitch" by Adam Parrish (p. 47). As declarer, use deception to mislead the defense as to your actual holding. In this example, Parrish makes it look like he will get a

needed pitch. If true, the defenders need to take their tricks in a hurry (an active defense). However, in this case, the opposite is true and the defense would be better served with a passive approach.

5. "Reasoning with Robert: Defense - more third-hand play at trick one" by Robert Todd (p. 48). Sometimes, instead of automatically playing "third hand high", it is better to hold up on the first lead of your suit in notrump to keep communications open with partner.

6. "The Real Deal: Even the best" by Larry Cohen (p. 57). Ruff losers as high as you can afford before drawing trump. After drawing trump, discard the remaining losers on side-suit winners.

7. "Challenge of the Month" (p. 57). The lead of a king usually promises the queen. Duck the ♣K opening lead and later finesse against the ♣Q.

8. "Boehm on Bridge: Trump management - part 2" by August Boehm (p 58). If the trump suit is the entry to a long side suit, delay drawing trump until after that suit is set up.

9. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgment - part 11" by Marty Bergen (p. 59). Upgrade your hand when appropriate to arrive at the right contract and take all your chances to make the contract.

10. "Mike's Advice: A proper order for everything" by Mike Lawrence (p 62). This column describes a nifty strip-and-end play deal where both opponents are end-played, allowing declarer to take two club tricks.

Our Favorites

"The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 4 (p.39)

Problem 4

West deals. Both vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A 10 9	♠ K Q 2
♥ K	♥ A 7 5 2
♦ A J	♦ K 9 7 5 3
♣ K Q J 10 5 3 2	♣ 7

The opponents are silent. We like *Bridge Bulletin* auction:

West	East
1♣	1♦ (a)
3N (b)	4N (c)
6N (d)	

Notes

(a) Some would skip the diamond suit and bid 1H, but we like showing the longer diamonds when we have a good hand (a good 10 point minimum), as we are strong enough to bid the hearts on our next bid.

(b) This is the key bid in the sequence. It is not standard, but it is the best bid available. The hand is definitely going to game after partner responds. The hand is too strong for 3♣. In this sequence, 3N should show solid clubs; these clubs are almost solid. A singleton king in a major often works as a stopper in notrump, as the aces are often underled. 3N does show the strength of the hand - and roughly shows its shape.

(c) 4N is quantitative, inviting slam.

.

(d) This is close to a 2♣ opener, so West accepts.

<i>Dummy</i>	
♠	65
♥	943
♦	Q96
♣	KJ753
<i>You</i>	
♠	K2
♥	AK52
♦	AJ103
♣	A42

“Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgment - part 11” by Marty Bergen (p. 59)

You upgrade your 19 HCP to 20 because of the three aces. And the ♦T is likely to be useful in a four-card suit headed by the AJ. Furthermore, you want to declare NT so that the likely spade lead is coming to your ♠K, not through it.

Partner raises to 3N and the opponents lead an expected spade, the ♠7. You win the ♠K.

You have six top tricks: one spade, two hearts, one diamond, and two clubs.

To pick up the extra tricks in clubs, you need the ♣Q to be onside and the suit to split 3-2; a 34% chance.

To pick up the diamond suit you just need the ♦K to be onside; a 50% chance.

So, to take all your chances, you play the ♣A and ♣K, hoping that the ♣Q falls. That’s about a 40% chance. When it doesn’t fall, abandon clubs and take the diamond finesse. Take all your chances.

When you take the diamond finesse, start with the ♦9 so you can continue with the ♦Q on the second diamond lead. This guards against East holding ♦K8xx. You will need to finesse against East

three times if that is East's holding. This works. Making.

				♠ J7643							
				♥ 3							
				♦ A94							
				♣ K742							
♠ A						♠ K2					
♥ J84						♥ Q10976					
♦ Q87532						♦ K106					
♣ 1086						♣ AJ3					
				♠ Q10985							
				♥ AK52							
				♦ J							
				♣ Q95							
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
		1♥	1♠								
2♥	4♠	All Pass									

“Mike’s Advice: A proper order for everything” by Mike Lawrence (p 62)

West leads the ♥4. Declarer has three certain losers: ♠AK and the ♣A—unless the defense crashes the ♠AK.

The key to this deal is not to lose a second club and to take: three spades, two hearts, two heart ruffs, one diamond, and two clubs, for a total of ten tricks.

The only way to take both the ♣K and ♣Q is not to pull trump immediately. The first order of business is to take all the red winners and trump all the red losers before letting the defense in. Strip the hand.

Then throw in West with a trump. West must either lead a club or give declarer a sluff and a ruff by leading a red suit. If he leads a club, declarer ducks in dummy and wins East’s ♣J with the ♣Q.

Next, the declarer throws East in with the ♠K. East either gives declarer a sluff and a ruff by leading a red suit or makes dummy’s ♣K good by leading the ♣A. Making.

From the Editors



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 are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities please contact Karen Nussbaum at Karenenuss@gmail.com.**

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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