



Unit 174 Newsletter December 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.

[PresidentsMessageAnchor](#)

Unit 174 President's Message



Unit 174 President's Message - December

Greetings, Unit 174:

Happy December and Season's Greetings, Everyone! The Lone Star Regional is right around the corner, and the Board members have been working hard to ensure that this will be a great tournament. We have an incredible line-up of guest

speakers and many opportunities to earn those GOLD points! There will be lots of choices, including Bracketed Swiss, Knock-outs, and pair events – so get your teams and partners lined up now! We encourage you to register early to avoid the lines, as we anticipate tournament turnouts to be increasingly healthier as we move into the new year and continue to advance past the Covid storm. Remember also that ACBL ramped up awards by 20% to encourage F2F tournament participation. Be sure to check out the flyer (link in the tab on the right) and see all that we have in store!

Once again, our very own poet laureate, Sarah Springer, has bestowed upon us another creation!!

Lone Star is Near

December days become seasonal;
Our Unit Board plans the regional.
Lone Star is our true delight:
Of our tourneys it's the height!

Mini Soloway KO for top players,
Games galore in many layers,
Gold rush pairs and XYZ...
There is so much to do and see.

Play all day and evening too!
Games for seasoned folks and new.
Lots of Bracketed Swiss
These are games you should not miss.

Ten two and seven are game times;
Once you're done it's time for wine.
Points of red and gold available
Sign up early for your table.

Holidays we dream of diamonds – the red ones
Two club bids make good projections
For slams so grand
We love our hands!

Spades and clubs not too inspiring...
Perhaps partner needs a firing.
Come on out for face to face
At the Marriott Westchase

Not attending our Regional

Is simply inconceivable;
Not to mention unbelievable.

Happy Holidays to one and all
Come January, answer the call
To play in the Lone Star
The best game from near and far!

I'd like to express heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of our sponsors for the upcoming LSR and appreciation in advance for our volunteers and participants! We need more volunteers, so please let us know.

Requests for the holiday season: Be kind - play nice - use finesse - be happy - stay healthy - shop online / play bridge in person!!

Christmas parties abound at the local clubs. Come out and play!!

Kathy McDougall, Unit 174 Board President
katmac432@hotmail.com



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. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

New Members: David P Bales, Tamara R. Fincher, Tom Fowler, Rachel S Kramer, Cathrine M Reading

Transfers In: Mr Gary L Britt, Cordelia Cottingim, Dr Gary Eilrich, Mr Ronald L Felton, Iris Siqueira, Joe A Siqueira, Kathy Stumbo

Welcome!



RANK ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master

Stephen Kaufman

Club Master

Cherie Baer, Kyo Chen, Kathy Galt, Judy Grimm, Rafik Hammami, Amy Hart,
Linda Hensley, Karel Kriel, Dale Punshon

Sectional Master

Chuck Drinnan, Ruth Gilman, Marci Keller, Edward Massin

Regional Master

Richard Barski, Bill Brady, Maureen Mallory, Zane O'Keefe, Kathryn Phillips

NABC Master

Joy Pruett

Advanced NABC Master

Corbin Shouse

Life Master

Renata Frutiger, Lee Ned

Bronze Life Master

Sarah Springer

Silver Life Master

Susan Domsalla, Claudia Parr

Ruby Life Master

Linda Drake, Phyllis Kuchta, Rupa Shah, Cheri Staples

Sapphire Life Master

Bill Gervais, Faye Vincent

Diamond Life Master

Mimi Hagedorn

Platinum Life Master

Jeff McKee

!!! Congratulations !!!

174 Unit News



The Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional

January 23rd – 29th, 2023



ACBL has increased awards by 20%!

Houston Marriott Westchase



2900 Briarpark Drive
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 978-7400
Free parking

Room Rate: \$129

[Book your group rate for ACBL](#)

Reservation codes:

ACBACBF – King ACBACBA – 2 Queens

Cutoff Date Jan 13th, 2023 or until block filled

FLM Day (Future Life Masters) – Tuesday
1 Free Play (0-99 MPs)

Tournament Chairs

Kathy McDougall
(832) 876-9516
katmac432@hotmail.com

Karen Nussbaum
(832) 524-5233
karenenuss@gmail.com

Partnership

Ken Hudson
(713) 204-5505
kghudson@comcast.net

Hospitality

Jane Armstrong
(281) 798-3342
littlebit9@comcast.net

Intermediate/Newcomer

Marty Hrachovy
(281) 387-8479
mhrachovy@gmail.com

Event Naming

John Herzer
(737) 287-7888
johncherzer@gmail.com

Director's Course

Saturday, Jan. 21st.....12:00 – 6:00
Sunday, Jan. 22nd.....10:00 – 3:00
Instructor – Tom Marsh Registration fee - \$50
For information or to register contact:
Karen Nussbaum @ 832-524-5233 or karenenuss@gmail.com

Best Practices Teacher Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 21st & 22nd.....9:00 – 3:00
Instructor – Patty Tucker Registration fee - \$50
Certification fee (Optional) - \$25
For information or to register contact:
Karen Nussbaum @ 832-524-5233 or karenenuss@gmail.com

Daily Start Times

Monday.....1:00 & 6:30
Tuesday – Saturday.....10:00 & 2:30 & 7:00
Sunday.....9:30 & TBA

Complementary ACBL entry labels

Great Line-up of Guest Speakers - To Be
Announced

Covid Safety - See Unit 174
(acblunit174.org) for latest
guidelines



**Early Registration
is Encouraged!**

**Sunday lunch provided
(with 2 Sessions)**

Open Pairs

(Double Session unless noted)

Monday – January 23

Education Fund Pairs *(Single Session)*.....1:00 & 6:30

Tue/Thu/Sat – January 24/26/28

A/X Pairs.....10:00 & 2:30

Mid-flight Pairs.....10:00 & 2:30

Morning Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....10:00

Afternoon Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....2:30

Evening Side Pair Series *(Single Session)*.....7:00

Wed/Fri - January 25/27

A/X/Y Pairs.....10:00 & 2:30

Morning Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....10:00

Afternoon Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....2:30

Evening Side Pair Series *(Single Session)*.....7:00

Sunday – January 29

A/X/Y Pairs..... 9:30 & TBA

Side Pairs *(Single Session)*..... 9:30 & TBA

Team Games

(Double Session)

Monday – January 23

Bracketed Teams..... 1:00 & 6:30

Tuesday – Saturday – January 24-28

Bracketed Teams..... 10:00 & 2:30

Tue/Wed - January 24/25

Handicapped Swiss *(2 sessions)*.....7:00

Thu/Fri – January 26/27

Handicapped Swiss *(2 sessions)*.....7:00

Sunday – January 29

A/X Swiss Teams.....9:30 & TBA

Bracketed Teams.....9:30 & TBA

Stratification & Flighting

A/X Pairs.....A: 5000+ X: 0-5000

A/X/Y Pairs.....A: 5000+ X: 2000-5000 Y: 0-2000

Mid-flight Pairs.....B: 1500-3000 Y: 0-1500

Gold Rush Pairs.....C: 300-750 Z: 0-300

Side Pairs.....A: 3000+ B: 750-3000 C: 0-750

299^{er}.....A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100

99^{er}.....A: 50-100 B: 20-50 C: 0-20

49^{er}.....A:20-50 B: 5-20 C: 0-5

Novice 20.....A: 10-20 B: B:5-10 C: 0-5

Strats may vary at director's discretion

Bracketed Teams.....Grouped by average MP

A/X Swiss.....A: 4000+ X: 0-4000

Sunday Bracketed Teams.....B: 0-3000

(No player with >3000 MPs)

Team or Pair average used for all stratified events

Cashless Tournament *(credit cards only)*

Table Fees:

Mon.-Fri. \$15/Session Saturday - \$16 (NAP)

Sun - \$16 *(Lunch Included w/2 sessions)*

Add'l. \$4 for lapsed members

FLM / I/N / 299^{er}

Monday.....1:00 & 6:30

Tuesday – Saturday.....10:00 & 2:30

Sunday.....9:30 & TBA

0-750 Gold Rush Schedule

(Double Session)

Monday1:00 & 6:30

Tuesday - Saturday.....10:00 & 2:30

Two Mini-Soloway KO Opportunities

For top bracket equivalent *(in lieu of above)*

Tue/Wed & Thu/Fri – 10:00 & 2:30

Conditions of Contest – see online flyer (page 3)

(early registration appreciated)

Please be Scent-sitive

No cologne No Perfume No offensive odors

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

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

Apple I (Mondays at Tracy Gee Community Center) will hold the annual holiday lunch on Monday, December 19th. The lunch will be catered by Demeris. Reservations are required. The club will be closed Monday, December 26th.

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. All games at \$3/person.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson
sisbjohnson@gmail.com - 281-536-1451

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 bring your vaccination card to the game or send a photo of it to Susan or Brigitte. 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

Mentor/Mentee



The Bridge Academy of West Houston is excited to announce a monthly Mentor/Mentee game on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30. The first game is Tuesday, Feb 14th.

If you would like to participate, there will be a sign-up sheet near the registration desk. Mentees must have fewer than 300 master points. Anyone with over 300 master points, a love for the game, and a willingness to play are asked to sign up as a Mentor.

Swiss Team



The Bridge Academy of West Houston is proud to announce a new Swiss Team game. The game will be held once a month on a Sunday at 1:00 pm. The first game is on March 19th. Subsequent monthly games will be announced.

Mini-lesson

Before each Wednesday game, there is a mini-lesson beginning around 10:00, taught by Joe Quinn.

Game Schedule

Wednesdays – Invitational
Thursdays – Open & 299'er
10:30 a.m.

Sunday – Future Life Masters
(time to be announced)

Arabia Shriners
10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- Jennifer Breihan, Susan Kaplan, and Catherine Brown directors

Game Calendar

Wed – Dec 21	Charity	Sun – Jan 8	Future Life Masters
Thu – Dec 22	Club Membership	Wed – Jan 11	Junior Fund
Wed – Dec 28	Club Championship	Thu – Jan 12	Junior Fund
Thu – Dec 29	Club Championship	Wed – Jan 18	Junior Fund
Wed – Jan 4	Junior Fund	Thu – Jan 19	Junior Fund
Thu – Jan 5	Junior Fund		

The starting time for the Future Life Master game has not been set. It will either be at 1:00 or 2:00 pm. Check our website for further details.

Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907

martinsens@comcast.net or

Joyce Ryan at (713) 301-0624 JoyceRyanBridge@gmail.com

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON (BCOH)

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

BCOH Online Choose Houston

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

BCOH Open Games (**Face 2 Face**)

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

Monday: 11:55am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30am

SAVE THE DATES:

Swiss Teams – 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. (Register at the club)

Mentor/Mentee F2F – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Sign up at the club or contact **Judy Cupps** with any questions @ judy_n_al@yahoo.com or call 713-320-5592.

****Extra Extra**** January 31st there will be a second F2F Mentor /Mentee - Sign up at club or contact Bob Ziegler@ 713-829-6928 with ant questions

Saturday F2F – Please check BCOH website for details for our monthly games

January 14th – Election results for 2023 BOD. Potluck lunch at 11:00 with open game to follow at noon.

December 31st – New Year's Eve and Life Master celebration for Twyla and Charles Woody. Chicken Pot Pie will be served. Please bring side dish or dessert to share. Lunch at 11:00 with open game to begin at noon.

Our next 499er/NLM Tournament is on February 16th- 19th

TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher and enjoy a free lesson from 9:30 to 10:10. Game to follow begins at 10:30. 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

[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.

Playing online? CHOOSE HOUSTON!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 AM	<i>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>					FLM 0-20	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM	300er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							Open
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM		FLM 0-50					
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh for details</i>						
7:00 PM	Mentor	Open		Open			

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

[CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY 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. Games are \$3.

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.

Clear Lake Bridge Club

Clear Lake Bridge Club has it going on in December!

- On Dec 21, we will have our monthly Mentor/Mentee game at 2:00 pm. And, of course, we have games of one kind or another every day.
- Finally, Steve Lowenkron is now collecting the annual dues, and Dave Glandorf has announced enrollment for classes to start on Jan 8.
- We will be open on both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

You should make reservations for either Eight is Enough or the Mentor/Mentee games. With regard to the other games,

just show up with a partner, and you will be able to play, although Monday afternoons are 299 and Wednesday afternoons are 199. We also have 749 games on Tues and Thurs mornings and an open game every day but Thursday.

Pls, take a look at our website, which is updated regularly.

☐ <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/>



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

Visit our website!

www.flm174.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

FLM 199er Sundays

DEC 18th at Shriners

Holiday Luncheon!

JAN 8th at Shriners

Singletons welcome! Partners provided!

\$5.00 18-Board Game, Snacks & Fun

Covid Vax required

GAMES

Face-to-Face

199er Games

- Clear Lake Bridge Club WEDNESDAYS at 2:00 PM

299er Games

- Clear Lake Bridge Club MONDAYS at 2:00 PM
- **NEW** • **Bridge Academy of West Houston THURSDAYS at 10:30**

Online at BBO

0-20er FLM 2nd Saturdays at 9:00 AM

0-49er FLM Tuesdays at 3:05 PM

0-49er D16 Mondays at 4:00 PM

0-300 CHOOSE HOUSTON Weekdays at 10 AM

FORT BEND DBC Sugar Land

**FORT BEND DUPLICATE BRIDGE - SUGAR LAND
OPEN GAME TUESDAYS AT 9:15 AM New Time!**

Please arrive at 9:15
We start promptly at 9:30

**JACKS CONFERENCE CENTER
3232 AUSTIN PARKWAY
SUGAR LAND, TX 77479**

- **FREE COFFEE AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS**
- **WE USE BRIDGE MATE II BRIDGE PADS**
- **AT LEAST 3 UPGRADED GAMES EVERY MONTH**
- **HAND RECORDS AFTER EVERY GAME**
- **NICE BALANCE OF FRIENDLY A, B, & C PLAYERS**
- **OPEN AND UPGRADED GAMES ARE ONLY \$6.00**
- **HAND SANITIZER AND MASKS ARE AVAILABLE**
- **AT LEAST 9 TABLES**

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD IF YOU ARE COMING AND/OR
NEED A PARTNER**

JOHN ERIC WATSON
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107

[KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB](#)

**Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club has added a second game on
Thursday starting September 8!**

Both games (Wednesday and Thursday) start at 10:00 am at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

On Thursday morning, Bill Riley will be giving a short 20-30 minute presentation on various topics, conventions, etc., starting at 9:20 AM. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

For information, contact Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or jrsimmons2102@gmail.com. Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or ichibanbill@yahoo.com. Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281)348-2570

[LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB](#)

Greetings from Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club

We have been making some changes at LCDBC and want to bring you up to date.

Starting October 2022, the fee for playing will be dropped to \$5.00.

We would like to invite you to come play with us every Friday. We play at the April Sound Church Fellowship Building, the one closest to Hwy 105. The address is 67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S, Montgomery, TX

77356. The church parking lot is accessible directly off Hwy 105.

We begin playing at 10:30 am. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea for those who want it. Bring your lunch, as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

Please invite your bridge friends to join us. We are a very friendly group of bridge players and will make everyone feel welcome.

No Partner?? No worries! Call Gerry Earnest at 936-447-6958 for a partner.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Penny Grassedonio
Club Manager
832-361-4577
czthdaypjg@gmail.com.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul United Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our website, <https://lonestarbridgeclub.org>.

Games are on Mondays at Noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am. All games are stratified. Proof of Covid vaccination is required, and masks are optional. We provide Coffee, bottled water, and only individually wrapped snacks.

Our games are always \$5.00.

In December, on the first Monday, there will be a free lesson from Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll.

Starts at 11:00. It will cover:

- Using basic Lebensohl when your right-hand opponent bids over your partner's 1NT opening.
- Doubles that sound alike but have way different meanings

Please join us for FREE Pizza on the first Thursday of every month!

If you would like to play and need a partner, please contact our partnership chairperson, Sandra Maalouf, at 936-597-8756 or smaalouf@icloud.com.

For more information, contact Linda Sutton at lindasutton212@gmail.com.

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 **now \$5** per person. **Masks are no longer required or encouraged**, and you must have a partner. For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com.



Guest Editors

December 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll

Sam Khayatt

Sorry for the small font - please increase the view size (the ... in upper right hand corner) to make the view of the newsletter larger for this section.

Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

These are the articles that we believe will benefit our readers the most.

1. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (p. 43). We like the *Bridge Bulletin* auction. We like the 5♦ opening as a two-way bid: it may make and it makes it difficult for the opponents to enter the auction. Partner then has an easy 6NT bid, expecting to lose only the ♥A.
2. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker (p.44-47).
 - a. Deal 3: The heart stop is enough for all the respondents to bid notrump. None show the killer diamond suit
 - b. Deal 4: Five respondents objected to the 1♣ opener with ♣A K J T 7 6; all of them would have bid 2NT.
 - c. Deal 5: It was a difficult choice between a takeout double of a 3♥ preempt with the doubleton ♠AK or 3NT with the doubleton ♥Q9.
3. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 48).
 - a. Deal 1: Realizing that all of partner's spades are good, forget your solid hearts and discard the ♠Q to let partner know his spades are running.
 - b. Deal 2: After leading a heart against 3NT, you realize hearts are not going to work, so discard a low heart. By discarding a heart, you are telling partner hearts won't run; he knows you are too good a player to discard a winner. The low heart discard is a suit-preference signal for clubs.
4. "Parrish the Thought: Trump leads" by Adam Parrish (p. 49). When declarer has shown two suits and dummy picks one, lead a trump to cut down on declarer's ruffs.
5. "Reasoning with Robert: Bidding opposite a passed hand – fourth-seat opening bids" by Robert S. Todd (p. 50)
 - a. Since spades are so important, you usually need 15+ HCP to open with a spade void.
 - b. Opposite a passed partner, major-suit openings can be made with a good four-card suit when you have no interest in game.
 - c. You can stretch a tad to open 1NT to block the opponents from entering the auction.
6. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 55). Playing standard methods (not a short club) a 1♦ opener shows four or more diamonds 97.2% of the time.
7. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 57). Identify the defender who is out of the opponents' long suit and finesse into that hand. This is sometimes called "cutting communication."
8. "Boehm on Bridge: Tenacious defense – part 3" by August Boehm (p. 60). A long suit in dummy that can be used for discards requires the defenders to take their tricks ASAP.
9. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgement – part 19" by Marty Bergen (p. 61). Queens and jacks are worth more in notrump than in a suit contract. They are slow tricks. Fast tricks (aces and AK combinations) are worth more in a suit contract.
10. "Test your Play by Eddie Kantar (p.63)
 - a. Deal 1: Set up the fifth heart.
 - b. Deal 2: Strip the hand, play a loser on a loser and end-play West.

Our Favorites

Our Favorites

"Parrish the Thought: Trump leads" by Adam Parrish (p. 49)

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

♠ AK743	♠ J5
♥ 87	♥ K6543
♦ K4	♦ A732
♣ A832	♣ 95

On this auction, West probably only has only two spades, as he bid 1NT instead of 2♠ on his first call. East probably has three or fewer clubs when she takes a preference to spades. East, who will be dummy, could easily have two or fewer clubs, so the defense should lead a trump to minimize the ruffs.

On a layout like the one shown, a spade lead stops declarer from ruffing at all.

"Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 57)

		♠ J83	
		♥ A4	
		♦ J64	
		♣ AJ1083	
♠ K104			♠ 9652
♥ J10987	W	N	♥ Q52
♦ Q32	+	+	♦ K985
♣ 75	S	S	♣ K2
		♠ AQ7	
		♥ K63	
		♦ A107	
		♣ Q964	
West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

West leads the ♥J. What is our plan?

We likely have two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four club tricks. However, securing these tricks might involve losing the lead several times. The defenders might be able to take five tricks in their suit before we take our nine.

Guarding against five hearts in West (West led them) we duck the first heart trick, reducing East to two hearts. We win the second heart trick (East is now down to a heart singleton) in dummy, and take the losing spade finesse into West. West continues with a third heart trick, which we win in our hand. East is now out of hearts. We take the losing club finesse into the East hand. Because East is out of hearts, he must return something we can win. We win the return and take the rest of our nine tricks.

Voiding one opponent of the pair's long suit is often described as "cutting the communication" between the two hands.

Defense by Jack Lavigne

Defending is considerably more difficult than declaring. When one declares, all the assets are known. When defending, your partner's cards are hidden, so you have knowledge of only half of your assets.

The defense desperately tries to communicate with each other their unknown assets by the cards they play when leading or following suit to their partner's or declarer's lead.

For example, assuming you play fourth best from the KJ32, one leads the 2. Whether the 2 or 3 is led has no effect on establishing the suit, but your partner will place the 2 in the declarer's hand if the 3 is led and miscount the hand.

When playing to your partner's low lead and holding the QJ5, play the J (lower of two touching honors). Regarding establishing the suit, it is equally good to play the Q, but your partner will mistakenly place the J in the declarer's hand.

Despite the relative difficulty of defending, you will be defending approximately half of the time, so it is important to have a strong understanding of the basics.

In this article, we will touch on the third-hand play when defending a notrump contract and how to communicate your holding to your partner.

When your partner leads a low card against notrump, and the dummy has all low cards, one should follow the rule, third-hand high.

Example 1

	<u>North</u> ♠ 543	
<u>West</u> ♠ AJ62		<u>East</u> ♠ K87
	<u>South</u> ♠ Q109	

In example 1, partner leads the 2 of spades against South's notrump contract. East should play the K. When this holds, if East returns a spade, you will pick up the first four spades.

Which spade should East return?

When returning your partner's lead, he will know that you can't be counted on to hold anything higher if you follow this rule: always lead back your highest remaining card whenever you held three cards originally.

What about if you have four or more cards? In this case, when returning your partner's lead follow this rule: *lead back your original fourth best whenever you held four or more cards originally.*

In this case, when you return the 8, now partner knows that the declarer holds the Q109. Partner doesn't know whether the declarer holds the 7 or if that card is in your hand. If you hold the 7, your side gets four tricks, but when the declarer holds the 7, your side will get three tricks.

Example 2

	<u>North</u> ♠ 54	
<u>West</u> ♠ KJ82		<u>East</u> ♠ A93
	<u>South</u> ♠ Q1076	

After West's spade 2 lead you win the A (third-hand high) and return the 9 (highest remaining card when you originally held 3). Declarer may play the Q or the 10. In either case, West wins and ... ?

West might cash out for three tricks, but it is probably better to shift and hope to get you in for a subsequent spade lead through declarer.

West knows from your 9 spot that you don't hold four spades. If East can gain the lead again, the defense will take four spade tricks.

Example 3

	<u>North</u> ♠ 543	
<u>West</u> ♠ A1072		<u>East</u> ♠ QJ6
	<u>South</u> ♠ K98	

After West's spade 2 lead, you should play the J applying the rule (*when holding touching honors, play the lowest one*).

Note that this is the opposite of what one does on the opening lead. From the QJ10x, lead the Q but play the 10 in the third chair when your partner has led the suit.

If you play the J, West may not know whether you or the declarer holds the Q, but at least there is a chance that you hold it.

If West gets on lead and it appears that you have no entry, West may lead the 7 to your Q, and your side gets three spade tricks.

Summary

In general, your side will be defending half the time. It is important to

learn and apply basic leads and third-hand cards, which will enable partners to infer the cards held by the unseen hand.

From the Editors



If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities, please contact Kathy McDougall, Unit 174 Board President

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