



Unit 174 Newsletter February 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.

- [President's Message](#)
- [New Members, Rank Advancements, Member News](#)
- [Unit News](#)
- [Club News](#)
- [Guest Editors](#)
 - [February 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes](#)
by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt
 - [Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt - Guest Editors](#)
[13 Tricks As Long As We...](#)

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

10th President's Message

Our LSR has come and gone already. A big thank-you to all those attending, and to all our volunteers who made it possible. Our attendance was not what we were hoping for, but as my mom once advised me, "Always give your party for the ones who come." Those attending all had a great time, and many players advanced their ACBL rankings. Our speakers were all terrific and we learned a lot. ACBL Covid protocols were in place and enforced, and we have not heard of any LSR attendees getting ill. This is an encouraging sign for the return to F2F bridge.

Our Unit 174 Election Sectional will also be held at the Arabian

Shriner's location, from Friday, April 8th thru Sunday the 10th. Chairpersons Kathy McDougall and Charley Dalton are hard at work planning this event. Our annual Unit 174 meeting will be held on that Sunday. We hope everyone will attend to play F2F bridge, and we need a quorum to tend to Unit 174 business and some by-law changes.

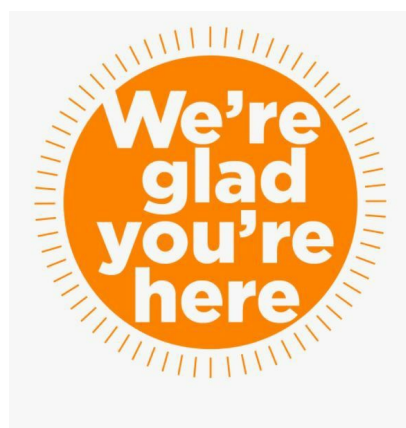
The candidates running for the Unit 174 Board of Directors are listed on the unit web page. You can vote early online, which is most helpful, or you can vote in person at the Election Sectional up until the Sunday morning game starts. We will also announce the winners of the Unit 174 Board of Directors election before the start of the afternoon game. More details will follow but mark your calendars.

And we are all looking forward to the emergence of the new Bridge Academy of West Houston. They held their first game on Wednesday, Feb. 16th for players with less than 1500 masterpoints, at the Arabia Shriner Center. This is another great opportunity to get back to F2F bridge again!

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:

College Station: Cynthia E DuBois

Cypress: Gunjan Singh

Houston: Cherie M Baer, Ken Russell, Pamela J

Stewart, Nancy Baltz,

Bonny D Rogers, Christina Verret

Kingwood: George McKinley

La Grange: Jonathan R Friedel

Missouri City: Dianna E Smith

Rosenberg: Victor J Marks,

Spring: Dmitry Braverman

Woodlands: Peg P McGarry

Welcome! We are glad you are here :-)



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 (5 Masterpoints) (203 in Unit 174)

William Belford, Aimee Donnel, Carolyn Hardy, Niels Kastrup, Patty Romigh

Club Master (20 Masterpoints) (199 in Unit 174)

Karen White, Nada Wood

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints) (213 in Unit 174)

Richard Eisenach, Janie Kobes, Richard Kobes, Linda Monroe Wall

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints) (229 in Unit 174)

Zane Bolen, George Frondorf, Kathleen Hubbard, Katherine Low, Martha McWilliams, Betty Murray

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

Debbie Ballard, E Edgar Cosman, Mike Davis, Amy Grossman, Sue McCulley, Amy Puchot

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints) (27 in Unit 174)

Carolyn Clapp, Lynn Hershey, Ava Noble, Johara Nour, Danuta Parzych, Tom Russell, Betty Westbrook

Life Master (500 Masterpoints) (95 in Unit 174)

Patricia Dunnell, Robert Hannasch, Douglas Lilly, David Petkus

Bronze Life Master (750 Masterpoints)(253 in Unit 174)

Jenelle Chamberlain, Jerry Hoffman, Douglas Lilly, David Petkus, Edith Purgason

Silver Life Master (1000 Masterpoints) (179 in Unit 174)

Susan Stone

Ruby Life Master (1500 Masterpoints)(169 in Unit 174)

Jay Evert, Jabeen Farooki, Ann Van Volkenburgh

Gold Life Master (2500 Masterpoints) (105 in Unit 174)

None this month

Sapphire Life Master (3500 Masterpoints)(68 in Unit 174)

Joe Giovannangeli

Diamond Life Master (5000 Masterpoints) (48 in Unit 174)

Barbara Phillips

Emerald Life Master (7500 Masterpoints) (14 in Unit 174)

Victor Sitton

Platinum Life Master (10000 Masterpoints) (3 in Unit 174)

None this month

Total Unit 174 Members - 2325

Member Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following members:

- Lone Star Regional as Unit 174's District 16's Teacher of the Year: **Sam Khayatt**
- 2022 District 16 Star Award: **Gary Hercules**
- 2022 Goodwill Award: **Jimmy Breihan and Cindy Cox**

174 Unit News

Electional Sectional - **Please mark your calendar!**



Unit 174 Proudly Presents the 2022



April 8th thru 10th



Vote one hour prior to each session on Fri/Sat and Sunday morning

Election Sectional

ARABIA SHRINE CENTER

10510 Harwin Dr.
Houston, TX 77036



Stratification

Stratified Open Pairs
A:3000+ X:750-3000 Y:0-750

Stratified 299'r Pairs
B:200-300 C:100-200 D:0-100

Bracketed Swiss
Brackets of 7-9 teams



Table Fees

Friday/Saturday: \$ 13 (\$4 more for lapsed members)
Sunday: \$ 15 (Sunday lunch included)

SPRINGHILL SUITES by Marriott

5851 Rogerdale Rd, Houston, TX 77072
(832) 300-0200 - Room Rate \$79 (AARP Discount)

HOUSTON MARRIOTT WESTCHASE

2900 Briarpark Dr., Houston TX 77042
(713) 978-7400 - Room Rate: \$99

Covid Safety

See Unit 174 website (acblunit174.org)
for latest guidelines

Playing Schedule

Friday and Saturday, Apr 8 & 9th

Stratified Open Pairs	10 & 2:30
Stratified 299'r Pairs (single sessions)	10 & 2:30
Side Game (single sessions)	10 & 2:30
0- 20 Apollo pairs (Fri & Sat Only)	10
Bracketed Swiss	10 & 2:30

Sunday, Apr 10th

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)	10 & 2:30
Stratified 299'r Pairs (single sessions)	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss	10 & 2:30

Unit 174 annual meeting between sessions
Proposed bylaw change to be voted on
by our membership

Election Results & Awards (10 min) 2:20

Tournament Chairs

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

Charles Dalton
cdinc35@aol.net
(713) 861-3399

Hospitality Chair
Karen Nimmons
[kjimmmons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjnimmmons@sbcglobal.net)

I/N Chair
Betty Westbrook
bwestbrook@marketsciences.com
(713) 851-0026

Partnership
Carol Jewett
Pm8ck@aol.com
(713) 517-7436



Guest Speakers - 2:00 Friday and Saturday

Friday: **Joe Quinn**

Be Scent-sitive







Saturday: **Vinh Tran**

2022 Unit 174 Board Candidates

Unit 174's Election Sectional will be held on Friday, April 8th through Sunday, April 10th at the Arabian Shriners' location. Unit 174's Annual Meeting will be on that Sunday. The time will be announced. To read about the candidates and see when you can start voting online please go to the [Unit 174 Web Page](#).

Houston Unit 174 to Hold Board Election April 8-10, 2022

All members in good standing in Unit 174 will have the opportunity to vote for three members to its Board of Directors April 8-10, 2022, during the Election Sectional at the Marriott Houston Westchase. The three newly elected members will be announced prior to the second session on Sunday, April 10 and join Dave Becker, Charles Dalton, Greg May, Kathy McDougall, Karen Nussbaum, and Thomas Rush to complete the full nine-member Board. This year's Nominating Committee consisting of Paul Nimmons (chair), Hallie Eads, Nancy Guthrie, Terry Harrison, and Catherine Miller urges you to vote, either in person, early online, or absentee ballot.

John DuBose	Byron Fackenthal	Dick McGaughy	Ashok Shingavi	Sarah Springer	Eric Watson
 <p>I am a mostly retired programming geophysicist who has been an active duplicate player ever since college.</p> <p>Having mostly let other people do the good work of organizing and running the tournaments and handling business details, I feel it is my turn to step up.</p>	 <p>I am a retired Air Force officer and Xerox Manager. My academic background is Rutgers University, BBA; George Washington University, Master's degree in International Affairs; University of Northern Colorado, MBA; Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.</p> <p>I have spent the last 40 years in Houston, 25 summers in Northeast New Mexico. I have been very active in both bridge communities. I served at the Hospitality desk during tournaments and the Partnership desk in New Mexico and in Houston and have been involved in the Mentor/Mentee program.</p> <p>I wanted to give more back to the game and to my friends but was unable to serve due to split locations. I plan to stay in Houston and now I am able to serve. I am a team builder and made a difference wherever I have been.</p>	 <p>A native Texan, I received my BS from Texas A&M in Architectural Construction and was later certified as a P.E. in 20 states and a Surveyor in Texas. In addition to having my own firm for 25 years doing engineering design of low & midrise buildings, I was also a Lt Colonel in the Army Reserves.</p> <p>I learned to play bridge in 1954 playing after school in Kansas City having my first experience with duplicate in college where I learned to score travelers. After a 50 year break with family & career taking priority, I started again first with party bridge again in 2011 and then duplicate in Jan 2013, playing 5 times a week and at tournaments.</p> <p>I believe we need to find ways to interest the younger generation that bridge is more competitive and personal than computer games without the violence.</p>	 <p>I am a Gold Life Master and a club director.</p> <p>I started playing bridge by becoming captain of the Bechtel bridge team and playing in intercompany tournaments against teams from B&R, Kellogg, Exxon, and UH in 1973.</p> <p>I became a life master with 300 points by playing in several club, sectional, regional and national tournaments which included a match against Bill Gates in Seattle.</p> <p>I have volunteered in local clubs and feel I would be a great asset to Unit 174.</p>	 <p>I practice law for a living, but I prefer to play bridge. Playing duplicate in the Houston area has enhanced my life immeasurably – while playing the best game ever I have made so many friends and now I want to give back to our bridge community.</p> <p>As your representative on the Unit 174 Board, I will work to make our bridge odyssey the best it can be. Post Covid affords us the opportunity to forge a new and improved bridge experience for all players.</p> <p>I will listen to your ideas and together we can build on the old and create the environment which best serves all players, new, intermediate and advanced</p>	 <p>I first learned bridge from mother at age 13 and played socially until I joined the ACBL in 1990. Beginning in 2010, I began training as a director at Houston Bridge Studio. I became a Life Master in 2009, Bronze Life Master in 2015 and Silver Life Master in 2019.</p> <p>In 2014, I began working as a director and was trained as a club manager by Sue Williams. I purchased the Sugar Land club from Sue in December 2015 and established a cba for Fort Bend County Duplicate Bridge Club. I have managed and directed the games since that time.</p> <p>I have an MBA in Marketing and finance and life work experience as a banker and paralegal. Since I am retired, I have the time, experience, and willingness to serve the Unit on the board.</p>

Voting Information

For a ballot to be counted, a member must vote for at least one candidate, which can include a write-in candidate.

In-person voting will take place one hour before each session of the tournament on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Early online voting will be available from March 14 until April 5 at 3pm. Go to [www.acbl.com](#) click on the VOTE button on the right hand side of the page, and follow the instructions.

To vote by mail, contact the Election Judge, Ken Hudson, by March 12 via U.S. mail, e-mail, or telephone to request an Official Ballot. His contact information is 1903 Park Lodge Ct, Houston, TX 77062; email is kghudson@comcast.net (281) 488-1781. The ballot must be returned per provided instructions and postmarked no later than March 25 and must be received by the Election Judges no later than April 5 to be counted.

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:

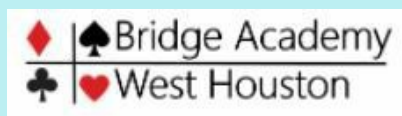
Monday - Apple - Paul Cuneo
paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net - 281-851-0422

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

NEW CLUB - NEW GAME!

A brand new club has been formed in the Houston area called Bridge Academy of West Houston. It is a non-profit organization that will be run by the players. The players will select the Board of Directors and help decide how the club is managed. The club was formed so YOU the Houston bridge community can have another full-service facility with lessons and games for all skill levels and experience.

Our Opening Day game on February 16 was a huge success and reached full capacity! Make a reservation and come join us on Wednesdays.

Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.

Arabia Shriners

10510 Harwin Dr.

Just East of Beltway 8

\$5 per person- \$6 for upgraded games beginning in March

Masterpoint limits gradually increasing - see website

Reservations required

Proof of vaccinations required

Masks optional

Coffee & Snacks provided

Joyce Ryan & David Henke directors

The Bridge Academy of West Houston is also planning to accommodate advanced and expert players soon. We are hoping to add open games for players at all levels in the near future.

Please be patient as we work our way through this initial phase of starting a new club. Keep an eye out for additional playing opportunities and visit our website for more information at bridgeacademyofwesthouston.com or contact Joyce at joyceryanbridge@gmail.com.

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

So sorry to report that Ron Pare' has passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Please keep Ann, their children, and friends in your prayers. The funeral will be for family only. A celebration of life will be arranged at a later date.

Congratulations to our own Sam Khayatt recognized at the Lone Star Regional as District 16's Teacher of the Year!! Well done, Sam!

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

Three Houston virtual clubs - Apple, BCOH, Clear Lake (ABC) - are offering a coordinated game schedule, [available on the U174 website](#).

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: 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: 10:30 am

SAVE THE DATES:

"Open Swiss Teams" - February 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
(Register at the club)

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 Opponents 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:

February 28: Opening Leads: The Fundamentals

March 7: Opening Leads Against NT and Suit Contracts

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!**

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



SILVER POINTS ! SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS!
499/NLM Tournament
Feb 24 – Feb 27, 2022

4688 Louetta Rd., Spring TX (next to Tuesday Morning)
281-651-6550 | thebridgeclub@sbcglobal.net

Partnership

Need a partner? Contact **Janice Hardcastle** at 832-643-1704 or janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com.

Stratification

A = 500 B = 300 C = 100

Strats may vary at the director's discretion

Lunch / Snacks

Free snacks and drinks available all days. Lunch available for \$5 on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, if ordered by 10am.

Entry Fees

ACBL Member (current)

\$10 per session per player

Lapsed ACBL Member

\$14 per session per player

Tournament Chair

Hugh Miller

Hugh.miller1@gmail.com

Pre-registration highly recommended on our website (www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh) for pairs and swiss teams

A swiss team sign-up sheet will also be available at the tournament

Event Schedule

Thursday, February 24

♠ 499r Pairs 10am
♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

Friday, February 25

♠ 499r Pairs 10am
♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

Saturday, February 26

♠ 499r Pairs 10am
♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

Sunday, February 27

♠ 499r Swiss Team 1:30pm

Ask the Expert

On **Sunday, Feb 27, from 12:30-1:15pm**, expert players will answer questions about your tournament hands. They will also discuss hands which demonstrate an interesting bidding, declarer or defense situation.

*Proof of Covid vaccination required to enter
Masks optional*

Club HVAC system, filters recently upgraded

[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 Sky Lark Road Houston, TX 77062 - Telephone: 281 480-1911. We welcome you all to our Face-to-Face games and our Virtual Club for fun games and masterpoints. The web page address is www.clearlakebridgeclub.org. Any questions call me (Doug Lilly Newly Elected President - and trying to defend the hydrant blast I find myself in) at 281-468-7029.

Remember an achieved goal is the starting point for future goals.

Doug Lilly

Annual Dues Drive:

Your Annual Dues of \$20 help us sustain our Club and keep our Game Fees low. In return, Members have these privileges:

- A Club Directory including your contact information
- Game Fee of \$5 (\$6 for Nonmembers)
- Listing in our email system so you receive regular updates about events at the Club
- A Vote at our Annual Meeting
- Mail a check to Clear Lake Bridge Club at 16614 Sea Lark Road, Houston, TX 77062

Safety Measures for playing Face-to-Face:

As per CDC recommendations, Clear Lake Bridge Club requires 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.

REGULAR GAMES - \$5.00

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
 749er Pairs
 Tues/Thurs. 10:00 AM



SPECIAL GAMES

Breakfast, Bridge & Lesson*

When: February 9, 2022 - 9:20 a.m.

Where: At the club!

*BB&L: Breakfast starts at 9:10, Lesson begins once everyone is settled, Game starts at 10:00

Mentor-Mentee Game

When: February 16th ~ 2:00 PM

Where: At the club!

Virtual Club Games

BBO: "CHOOSE HOUSTON!"

OPEN Games Pairs

Mornings

Monday through Friday

10:10 AM

Afternoons

Saturday & Sunday

12:00 PM

I/N Games

Mornings

199ers

Monday through Friday

9:50 AM

499er

Monday through Friday

10:00 AM

Afternoons

199ers

Sat & Sun

11:50 AM

Special Games for Future Life Masters (FLM)

0-20 CHOOSE HOUSTON FLM Apollo Game.

Assisted play Tuesdays at 3:05 PM

Assisted play Second Saturdays at 9:00 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.

All games in February and March will be Club Championship games with extra Masterpoints available. In addition, March 8 and 10 will be Upgraded Club Championships with even more Masterpoints. All games are still only \$3 per player.

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



ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE JOIN US!

Future Life Masters of Unit 174 Online Game Schedule

Latest Revision November 11, 2021

Playing Group	Masterpoints	Day	Time	BBO Club
Apollo	0-20	Tuesday	3:00	Houston U174 FLM Apollo 0-20 Assisted Play
	0-20	2 nd Saturday	9:00am	Houston FLM Apollo 0-20 Assisted Play & Board Review
Gemini	0-50	Monday	4:00	D16 0-50 FLM Gemini
Discovery	0-99	Tuesday	2:45	ChooseHouston FLM Discovery
	0-99	Thursday	2:45	ChooseHouston FLM Discovery
➔ All Players MUST have a BBO Screen Name with an ACBL# in their BBO Account				

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.

All games in February and March will be Club Championship games with extra Masterpoints available. In addition, March 9 will be an Upgraded Club Championship Game with even more Masterpoints. All games are still only \$3 per player.

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 czthdayjpg@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.

The first Monday of each month before the game, at 11 am, DLM Jeff Kroll teaches a lesson to benefit all levels of players. The March lesson will complete the strategy for IMPs VS Matchpoints, including when to double.

The first Thursday is always pizza day. Please join us for lunch during the break around noon. Starting February 1st, we will have beginner bridge lessons taught by Club Manager and Sapphire Life Master Linda Sutton. Classes will be from 10 am to 12 pm for six consecutive Tuesdays at our playing site, St Paul UMC. To register, contact Linda. Please call or write Linda Sutton, 936-443-3600, sutton212@gmail.com.

Our annual Membership Drive will begin March 1st and last all month. A new election for positions on the Board of Directors is also during March.

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 Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com.



Guest Editors

February 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes

by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

These are the articles that we believe would be the most useful to most players:

1. **“The Bidding Box”, moderated by Josh Donn**

a. **Page 38, Problem 1.** The Bridge Bulletin Auction. East must realize that its 12-HCP hand is worth at least 16 dummy points in support of partner’s spades and jump to 3♠ instead of just bidding 2♠.

b. **Page 40, Problem 6.** Dunitz, as East. opens 2♣ followed by 2NT to make sure he declares and gets a likely opening lead into one of his AQ combinations or K6 doubleton. The Bridge Bulletin auction uses a splinter bid to show four (or more) heart/trump support and diamond shortness.

This sequence gets to the good small slam.

2. **“It’s Your Call” by Sue Munday and Karen Walker.**

a. **Page 42, Deal 1.** This situation highlights a failure in the Bridge Bulletin Standard system: how to bid (advance) after partner makes a simple overcall. Although it only scores 70 points, we agree with Lawrence, Molson, and Sanborn that if we want the overcaller to bid again, we will make a cue bid. Discuss this situation with your partner.

b. **Page 43, Deal 2.** As a passed hand, East’s 3♣ after West’s weak 2♦ overcall shows a diamond fit. If East had held six good spades or almost any seven spades, he would have bid them the first time.

3. **“Card Play 101” by Alder (page 46), Deal 1.** Before cross ruffing, it is usually right to take your side-suit winners. **Deal 2** is a loser on a loser play.

4. **“Reasoning with Robert” by Robert Todd (page 48).** When to lead trump on the opening lead.

5. **“Startup Bridge” by Lynn Berg (page 49).** When to give count.

6. **“Lessons Learned” by Michael Berkowitz (page 50).** Take all your chances.

7. **“Mike’s Bridge Lesson” by Michael Lawrence (page 54).** Cutting the communications between the defenders.

8. **“Chalk Talk” by Eddie Kantar (page 55).** Keep the danger hand off lead.

9. **“Boehm on Bridge” by August Boehm (page 58).** When not to enter the auction with an opening hand.

10. **“Better Bidding with Bergen” by Marty Bergen (page 59).** When not to follow the Rule of 15 for opening in the fourth position.

11. **“Bidding Matters” by Karen Walker (page 60).** HCP is just the first step in proper hand evaluation. We teach this lesson frequently.

12. **“Test Your Play” by Eddie Kantar (page 61), Deal 1.** Playing a 4-3 Moysian fit. Ducking the first round of our side suit (spades) in

order to set it up. The defense will properly attack our entry, but it won't help.

Editors note: For another explanation and more examples of Moysian fits check out Larry Cohens www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/moysian-fits

Our Favorites

2. Blast off
IMPs. None vulnerable.

♠— ♥A85 ♦A1083 ♣AKJ974

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
2♦	3♣	3♠	?
Call	Votes	Award	
4♦	8	100	
6♣	4	80	
4♠	2	70	
5♣	1	60	

“It’s Your Call” by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 2

(p.43) – Showing a fit as a passed hand

As a passed hand, East’s 3 after West’s weak 2♦ overcall shows a diamond fit. If East had held six good spades or almost any seven spades, he would have bid them the first time.

Grossack and others mention that East’s 3♠ bid makes it fairly certain he is bidding with diamond fit. How else can a passed hand introduce spades at the three-level without a diamond fit?

Four panelists just bid 6♣ as they are going there anyway with the bid club fit and first-round controls in the other three suits.

Most take it slower by cue-bidding 4♦. This shows control in diamonds and tells partner that South has slam interest. The panelists who made this bid are hoping for a 4♥ cue bid from North. Some would be happy with 6♣, but Grossack and Lawrence are interested in exploring for 7♣.

1♠	1NT
2♥	Pass

“Reasoning with Robert” by Robert Todd (page 48) – Trump opening leads

The primary reason to lead a trump on the opening lead is to prevent the declarer from trumping losers in the hand that is short in trump, usually the dummy.

Opener is showing five (or more) spades and four (or more) hearts in this auction. Most of the time it’s five spades and four hearts. Responder’s 1NT denies a two-level bid.

When responder passes 2♥ she is almost certainly short in spades. With equal length in partner’s majors, responder would have

returned partner to the first, and presumed longer, suit. Though they are playing in the second suit, it is likely that declarer will be ruffing spades in dummy - the hand that is likely to be shorter in trump.

1♠	2♠
3♦	4♠

In this auction, responder has shown a weakish hand with spade support.

Opener's 3♦ bid is a help suit game try, asking responder to bid game with help in eliminating diamond losers.

"Help" comes in two forms: (1) shortness so declarer's loser can be ruffed or (2) honors that can cover declarer's losers.

If you hold strong diamonds, responder's help is likely shortness so that declarer's losers can be ruffed. Lead a trump.

1

Dlr: East	♠ AKQ82
Vul: None	♥ A103
IMPs	♦ 63
	♣ A74
	♠ 64
	♥ KQJ5
	♦ AK72
	♣ Q53

"Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (page 61) - Ducking to set up a suit

You are playing 6♥; West leads the ♦Q.

Playing IMPs, you just want to make your contract and are not concerned with an overtrick.

Count your winners:

- If you have four spades (when there are six out, they usually split 4-2). If you five spade tricks, then you would play for a 3-3 split, which happens only 35.5% of the time.

- Four hearts
- Two diamonds
- One club

Total: 11 tricks.

The key play is to lose a spade immediately so that the suit is set up (assuming the suit breaks no worse than 4-2) and you can later cash the spades. The defense will likely lead a club to remove the outside entry to the spade suit. This will not pose a problem as you can use

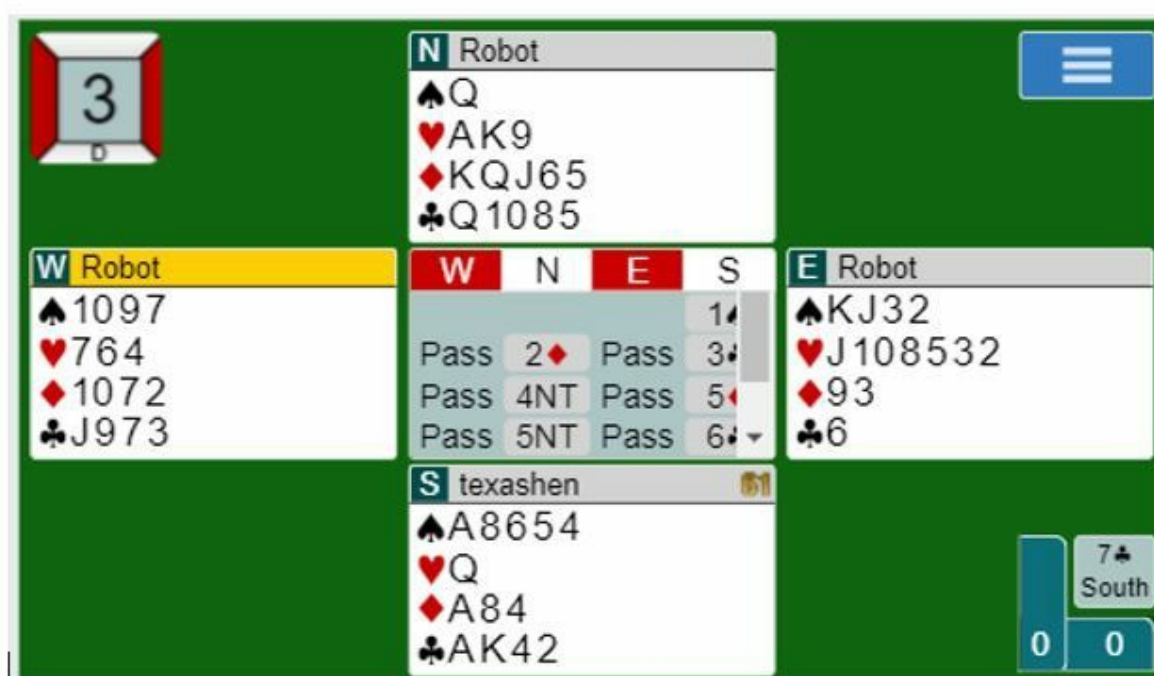
your other small spade to get there.

After establishing four spade tricks, work on trick #12: a diamond ruff in dummy. Play the $\heartsuit K$ and ruff a third-round diamond with the $\heartsuit T$. Always ruff with the highest card you can afford.

Now you can draw trump in four rounds, pitching dummy's clubs on the long hearts, and lead a small spade toward dummy's $\spadesuit A$. Assuming the 4-2 (or better) spade split, take the last four tricks.

Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt - Guest Editors

13 Tricks As Long As We...



	North	South	
		1♠	
<i>Game-force</i>	2♦	3♣	<i>Natural (16-22¹ HCP; four clubs)</i>
<i>Key-card ask in clubs</i>	4N	5♣	<i>1 or 4 key cards (three As and the ♣K)</i>
<i>Confirms all key cards; ask for specific kings</i>	5N	6♣ ²	<i>No king that can be shown below the six level of our suit</i>
	7♣	P	<i>Clubs is safer than NT as we might need to ruff. Can't count 13 tricks in notrump based on the auction.</i>

¹Going to the three-level shows extra values; with minimum hand, opener would rebid 2♠. Not a perfect bid, but acceptable.

²This is a forced bid; there is no suit lower than clubs. The purpose of the 5N bid to let us know that we have all the key cards so we can decide on clubs or notrump.

We can take 13 tricks (one spade, three hearts, five diamonds, four clubs) in either clubs or NT as long as we cash the $\clubsuit AK$ in the first two rounds of clubs. When East shows out, we can finesse against the marked $\clubsuit J$ in West's hand. This is the correct technique as four to the Jack can be picked only if held by West. If the EW clubs were reversed, we could not finesse against the $\clubsuit J97$. Spot cards matter.

If the $\clubsuit J97$ had remained in the East hand behind the $\clubsuit T85$, after the $\clubsuit Q$ were cashed, the contract could not be made. We would be forced to play our spot cards before East played. As the cards actually lie, it is simple to lead toward the $\clubsuit QT$, taking the marked

finesse, after East shows out.

When things look too easy, think about what could go wrong. Bad splits – especially in the trump suit – should be considered as one of the things that could go wrong.



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.

Jeanne Phelps and Linda Warren
Co-editors of Unit 174 monthly newsletter
unit174newsletter@gmail.com and lwarren760@gmail.com

