

JANUARY

Important Correction! - To preregister your proof of vaccination for the Lonestar Regional go to the Unit 174 Website acblunit174.org, DO NOT use the email that was in the previous newsletter - Below is the correct information.

Skip the line by pre-registering proof of your COVID vaccine. To do so, go to the unit 174 website to register - acblunit174.org. Put your name and ACBL number in the subject line and attach an image of your COVID vaccination card. When you arrive at the LSR, pick up your COVID verified wrist band.

Plus please note that the new Board for BCOH is now in the correct spot. Congratulations to the new board:-)



Unit 174 Newsletter January 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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by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt
 - [What They Want You To Do May Not Be What You Want To Do](#)
by Thomas Rush

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

9th President's Message

President's 9th Message

When my oldest child turned 16, he was thrilled to have passed the written test for Driver's Ed. and was ready for the behind-the-wheel class. On the way home from the test, I told him that early Sunday morning we would go to an empty grocery or other large, empty parking lot so he could actually drive the car before his behind-the-wheel class on Monday. I got the 'oh mom' look as he informed me he had memorized the manual, did not miss any questions, and had been watching his dad and I drive for 16 years, and could he just sleep in Sunday. Nope!

So Sunday morning around 8:00 am we pulled into a large, empty grocery lot and changed seats. He fixed the mirrors, the seat, the seat belt, and his hat. Now off we went-Flying across the parking at the speed of sound. He hit the brakes and the car screeched to a stop. We were both plastered to our seats and we sat in silence a moment. Breathing. "Oh mom, I am so sorry! I did not know your car had such pickup!" (It was an after-market suburban, with running lights, bucket seats, a sleeper sofa, a sound system, and a TV).

I tell this story because it can also be about me being President of Unit 174! In my first year as a member of the board, everything was done by zoom. We listened and learned by Zoom about what we would be doing if we did not have the pandemic. We read the by-laws and procedure manual. Jack Lavigne was president, and he had a weekly session with each of us so we knew what we needed to do and how to do it.

Then, the following year I became President. First I had to learn to start a Zoom! We began to plan the June 2021 Sectional. It was canceled. Then we began to plan the August Sectional. It was canceled, as was October's sectional. In the meantime, we members had been working on the Lone Star Regional all along, as there is much-advanced work and planning that goes into a regional. It has been a real eye-opening and learning experience! We have read our manuals, but this is our first time behind the wheel. A lot of effort by many unsung heroes went into making this year's LSR regional happen. We hope you all attend as it promises to be pretty special. Fasten your seat belts!

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: Anita West

Crystal Beach: Joy Cook

Cypress: Susan Sebo

Dickinson: Barbara R. Scales

Houston: Norman R Berlat, Yagna S. Bhavsar, Martha G.

Hanson, Stanley A. Hoffberger, Paulette M. Howard, Don E.

McGuirt, Dortha Pongetti, Amy Siler, Leo B. Womack,

Elizabeth Gibbens, Wayne Gibbens

Humble: Cynthia W. Blankenship, David J. Nicholls

Spring: Nicholas Demarco

Sugar Land: Mahesh P. Patel

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) (202 in Unit 174)

Marci Keller, Larry D Koenig, Catharine A McDonald, Suzanne Sebo

Club Master (20 Masterpoints) (203 in Unit 174)

Gerald Fritz, Traci McCaskill, Raymond Orriss

Sectional Master (50 Masterpoints) (215 in Unit 174)

Jack L Bailey, Bill Brady, Bill Jenkins, Sharon Jenkins, Christine M Pillow, William B Price

Regional Master (100 Masterpoints) (228 in Unit 174)

Anne M Miraglia, Tina J Spera

NABC Master (200 + Masterpoints) (188 in Unit 174)

Phyllis M. Maddox, Mary T. Vagnoni

Advanced NABC Master (300 Masterpoints) (29 in Unit 174)

Martin J. Hrachovy

Life Master (500 Masterpoints) (98 in Unit 174)

Rupa Shah, Sarah P. Springer, Twyla J. Woody

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

Kathleen F. McDougall, Debbie L. Nash

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

Linda K Drake, Andrew C Remson, Rupa Shah

Ruby Life Master (1500 Masterpoints)(170 in Unit 174)

Lesly Van Dame

Gold Life Master (2500 Masterpoints) (103 in Unit 174)

Bob Arnett, Bob Dowlen

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

Debra K Bellan

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

Vinh Tran

Platinum Life Master (10000 Masterpoints) (2 in Unit 174)

Jack A LaVigne

Total Unit 174 Members - 2327

Congratulations to all for these accomplishments!



Houston Marriott Westchase

January 24-30, 2022

Table Fees: Monday - Saturday \$11

Sunday \$13

Red, Silver, and Gold Masterpoints

for the full flyer click [here](#)

UPDATE as of 1/07: The Lone Star Regional

It is time to grab your partners and teammates to play in the Lone Star Regional! Here is some important information about the tournament:

- **Skip the line by pre-registering proof of your COVID vaccine. To do so, go to the unit 174 website to register - acblunit174.org. Put your name and ACBL number in the subject line and attach an image of your COVID vaccination card. When you arrive at the LSR, pick up your COVID verified wrist band.**
- **All attendees must show proof of COVID vaccination and masks are required.**
- Parking is free at the Westchase Marriott!
- **The tournament is cashless. Credit cards must be used to pay entrance fees.**
- The tournament is fragrance-free.
- **Tuesday, January 25th, will be FLM day. All 99er's table fees will be \$5.00 per session. There will be a 99er's party after the second session, starting around 5:30.**
- The Teacher Appreciation award presentation will be made on Friday after the second session. Hot dogs and cake will be served!
- The District Awards will be presented between sessions on Saturday. Tacos will be served!
- Both the Director's Refresher Course and Best Practices Teacher Workshop will be offered at the Marriott Westchase the weekend before the Lone Star Regional! Each course costs \$50 (Best Practices is normally \$125!). Click on the Lone Star Regional button above for more details.
- Other surprises are planned! See you at the tournament!

Want to be on the Unit 174 Board?

Unit 174 is seeking one additional person to join the slate of candidates for its Board of Directors. If you are interested, contact Paul Nimmons (paulnimmons@sbcglobal.net), chair of the search

committee. Candidates for this position are Byron Fackenthall, Dick McGaughy, Ashok Shingavi, Sarah Springer, and Eric Watson.

Also Welcome! to our new board member Charlie Dalton. Thank you, Charlie:-)

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

We're looking for just the right location so we can offer a new, not-for-profit, full-service club with lessons and I/N and Open games!

Meanwhile, we have a temporary location at the Arabia Shriners for games on Wednesday mornings beginning in February. We're just

starting by focusing on all of the I/N players with <1000 MPs but will be increasing the Masterpoint limit in the near future.



Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
Arabia Shriners
10510 Harwin Dr.
Just East of Beltway 8

- \$5 per person
- Limited to < 1000 MPs initially
- Proof of vaccinations required
- Joyce Ryan & David Henke directors

For more information please go to our website at bridgeacademyofwesthouston.com or contact Joyce 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

Bridge Club of Houston is pleased to announce its 2022-2023 Board of Directors. President-Mike Linkins; Vice President- Debbie Nash; Treasurer- Kathy L'Hommedieu; Secretary- Bill Farrar. Completing the board are Marsha Boyer, Janice Hardcastle, Gretchen Lindquist, Bob Matlock, and Hugh Miller. The new board is looking forward to a fun and exciting year of bridge. BCOH would like to thank Andy Remson and Charles Woody for their dedication and service on the board for the past 3 years.

BCOH Online Choose Houston

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

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**

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

ALERT ALERT!!!! There will be no Face 2 Face games at BCOH during the Lone Star Regional - January 24th -28th.

SAVE THE DATES:

"Open Swiss Teams" - February 22nd at 10:30 a.m.

(Register at the club)

February New Life Master Celebration: TBA (check BCOH website for confirmed date)

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 | thebridgclub@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 HAPPY 2022

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. www.clearlakebridgeclub.org

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. Pay a game Director before/after games through January.

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

General Meeting - will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. Our Rank Advancement Party starting at 10:15 a.m is preceding the Meeting. Pastries, Pizza, Salad, and Beverages will be served.

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: January 12, 2022 - 9:20 a.m.

Where: At the club!

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

Mentor-Mentee Game

When: January 19th ~ 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.

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



FLM Day! at the Lone Star Regional Tournament

Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs: Single Session

0-5, 49er & 299er Pairs

Mon: 1:00 & 6:30 Wed - Sat: 10:00 & 2:30

Future Life Master (FLM)

Tue - 10:00 0-20 (Apollo)

Tue - 2:30 0-99er (Mixer Madness)

Session and overall awards will be red points.

The I/N player amassing the most points will be awarded a special trophy between sessions on Sunday.

**FLM DAY: TUESDAY, JANUARY 25
MORNING APOLLO (0-20) at 10:00
AFTERNOON MIXER MADNESS (0-99) at 2:30**

**EVENING FLM PARTY FOR ALL 99ERS: 5:30 - 7:30
IN THE RICHMOND ROOM**

**FLM GAME FEES \$5 (TUESDAY APOLLO & MIXER
MADNESS)**

ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE 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 REQUIRED. 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.

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 will resume sanctioned bridge games after the holiday season at our new location - Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

We plan to resume operation on January 4th next year. I want to thank all of our players for their support. I hope you all had a happy and busy holiday season and are ready for an exciting new Bridge season. Please respond to this email to book your seat.

KT Duplicate Bridge Tuesday Game
The game will start at 11:30 am.

What: ACBL Sanctioned Game
When: Tuesday, January 4th at 11:30 am

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Lake Conroe is open for face-to-face games. Games are \$8 and are held every Friday at 10:30 am.

The LCBC is nonprofit and very supportive of charities throughout Montgomery County.

To play at LCDBC, we require full Covid vaccination, but masks are optional.

Please bring your lunch, as there are refrigerators and microwaves for your use. We provide coffee, tea, and snacks.

For further info, contact Penny Grassedonio at 832-361-4577 or czthdaypjpg@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 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 Certified Best Practices Teacher Ron Pare'. Classes will be from 10 am to 12 pm for six consecutive Tuesdays at our playing site, St Paul UMC. To register, contact Ron at ronpare@uh.com. For information concerning the lessons or games, please call or write Linda Sutton, 936-443-3600, sutton212@gmail.com.

Also, 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 more. 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.duple@yahoo.com.



Guest Editors

January 2021 ACBL Bulletin Notes by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

These are the articles that we believe would benefit our readers the most:

1. "Playing the King, and Playing the Fool" by Simon Cocheme, page 29. Explains common card combinations which you can play to deceive the opposition by giving them the option of making an incorrect guess. These plays should be made in tempo so as not to give the show away.
2. "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn.
 - a. Page 38, Problem 1. The Bridge Bulletin auction shows how to get to the optimal contract of 6D which both contestants missed. When one partner denies a club control, when the other one is still looking for slam, the inference is that partner looking for slam has a club control.
 - b. Page 40, Problem 5. The reverse into the three-card diamond suit, used in the Zagorin/Bertheau auction and the Bridge Bulletin auction, is called a fake reverse as the diamonds are a three-card suit. It is used to force to game.
3. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, page 45, deal 5. The highest scoring bid is a forcing pass. The pass is forcing as North/South are playing 2/1 and are in a game forcing auction. A key benefit of playing 2/1.
4. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder, page 46. Make your contract by carefully using your entries and ruffing high to avoid being over-ruffed.
5. "Lesson Learned: To tell the truth" by Michael Berkowitz, page 49. This article covers common bidding problems -and which lie about your hand is appropriate.
6. "Mike's Bridge Lesson: A good defensive interference plus a good play" by Mike Lawrence, page 54. Duck to give your partner a chance to signal. Lawrence also discusses reading common signals.
7. "Chalk Talk: Playing a strong "D" by Eddie Kantar, page 55. Get an extra trick by playing a high trump (the Queen) to set up two winners to defeat the contract. This is called an uppercut.
8. "Defensive Maneuvers" by Paul Ross, page 56. It is correct to play the T from QTxx in third position when neither you nor the dummy holds the J. Playing the J from KJxx when the Q's location is unknown is another example of this principle.
9. "Challenge of the Month," page 57. Take advantage of the opening lead, and keep the dangerous hand off lead by giving the safe hand a trick they are not entitled to.
10. "Boehm on Bridge: Headache remedies-Part 1" by August Boehm, page 58. Look at all the known spot cards to decipher partner's signals.
11. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar, page 61, Deal 1. Kantar observes the difference between playing a contract at matchpoints, where overtricks are important, vs. IMPS, where you just need to make your contract.

Our Favorites

“Mike’s Bridge Lesson: a good defensive inference plus a good play” by Mike Lawrence (p. 54)

♠ 32 ♥ AKJ6 ♦ Q75 ♣ QJ84			
♠ A954 ♥ 1098752 ♦ 2 ♣ 93	N W — E S	♠ 10876 ♥ Q ♦ A64 ♣ 107652	
♠ KQJ ♥ 43 ♦ KJ10983 ♣ AK			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

No one is vulnerable. You are East. Partner (West) leads the ♥T. Dummy plays the ace and you follow suit with the ♥Q.

The ♦Q is now led from dummy. Often the key play is made on the first trick, but you didn’t have a decision to make on the first trick. On this deal, the key decision is made on the second trick.

Partner should know your ♥Q is a singleton. So, partner will give you a ruff if partner can. If you win the ♦A, you will have to guess where (in which suit) partner’s entry is. South is likely to have 6 diamonds for his jump shift. So, duck the ♦Q (that will also spare you embarrassment if West has the stiff ♦K). Win the second diamond trick and see what partner discards.

When partner discards the ♠9 (playing standard signals) you switch to a spade and get your heart ruff, setting the contract. You took two aces and a ruff, three tricks, total. Down 1.

“Chalk Talk - Playing a strong ‘D’ ” by Eddie Kantar (p. 55)

♠ 3 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ AJ1062 ♣ 1054			
♠ J92 ♥ 102 ♦ Q5 ♣ AKJ632	N W — E S	♠ Q4 ♥ 97543 ♦ 8743 ♣ Q9	
♠ AK108765 ♥ J8 ♦ K9 ♣ 87			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♠
2♣	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Similar to the Lawrence deal, you are East and the key decision is made at your first opportunity. From his presumed six-card spade suit partner leads the ♣K, then the ♣A. You just followed suit, first with the ♣9, then the ♣Q.

When partner plays the ♣2, he wants you to ruff it. Had he played the ♣J, he would not want you to ruff it.

You must ruff it with the ♠Q. Partner is trying for an uppercut. Once you play the ♠Q, your side is guaranteed two spade tricks, setting the contract. If declarer over ruffs, West makes the ♠J and

♠9. If declarer lets you win, partner still gets the ♠J.

Challenge of the Month. (p. 57)

West leads the ♠K. What is your plan?

A suit will split 3-2, 67.8% of the time. With no information from the

	♠ J3	
	♥ KQ2	
	♦ 765	
	♣ AK943	
♠ KQ102		♠ 987654
♥ 1076		♥ 3
♦ A1094		♦ QJ8
♣ J7		♣ Q108
	♠ A	
	♥ AJ9854	
	♦ K32	
	♣ 652	
North		South
		1♥
2♣		2♥
4♥		Pass

auction indicating otherwise, you should try to set up North's clubs for two discards. You plan on making one spade, six hearts and four clubs.

The problem is that East is the dangerous hand, and if East gets in on the third club, East will lead the ♦Q through South, collecting three diamonds tricks and a club for down one. So, you need to keep East off lead.

You must win the ♠A at trick one. At the second trick, cross to

dummy with a high heart, play the ♠J and pitch a club. West will win; he should have the ♠Q for his ♠K opening lead. Now, when next in, play the ♣AK and trump a club high. Then pull trump, ending in dummy, and run the clubs. The contract makes as long as the clubs split 3-2.

Thomas Rush

What They Want You To Do May Not Be What You Want To Do

The best bridge players are adept at two things: getting the most out of their cards, and helping you to get less than the best out of yours. You've all seen articles in the ACBL Bulletin where a good defender paints a picture of the defensive hands that leads declarer to go wrong. Here's a hand from the recent NABC in Austin where a fine defender tried to make it easy for me to take the wrong line - but I deduced from their play that they wanted me to take the easy road. When I did the opposite of what they suggested, I won the board.

You're playing an NABC matchpoint pair event against a strong defender on your left sitting South (hands rotated). The contract is 4♥:

Dummy:	♠ K9872	You:	♠
A			
(West)	♥ KJ5	(East)	♥ AT9732
	♦ K		♦ J2
	♣ AKJ7		♣ QT64

You are in 4♥ where South has overcalled diamonds and been raised by her partner. The opening lead is the Ace of Diamonds, felling dummy's King. You clearly have no further losers in spades, diamonds or clubs; your only challenge is the heart suit.

West thinks for a while and then continues with the queen of diamonds, forcing you to ruff low in dummy, leaving the doubleton ♥KJ on the board.

Do you play the AK of hearts and hope to drop the queen? Or do you finesse? If you finesse, do you finesse through North, or through South?

My intuition (and my expert partner's as we talked after the game) is that South **wanted** me to ruff that diamond to steer me away from the heart finesse. In general, if an opponent doesn't want you to do something, you should consider doing it. Trick 3 was a spade to the Ace, then a heart to the Jack (all follow), and then the King of hearts (RHO shows out). Ruff a spade to get to your hand, play the heart Ace, and claim 12 tricks for a great score. Playing for the drop or finessing against North would have given you a much more pedestrian 11 tricks.

The lesson of this hand is to be aware of when an opponent may be making a play intended to steer you into a particular line of play. It may be in your best interest to do the opposite of what your opponents want you to do. Note: Declarer can often effectively do similar things by the way she plays suits and hides or reveals or conceals her strengths and weaknesses - beware the crafty declarer!

From the Editors



We hope you have a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge

players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy.

If you would like to have your club info or an article of interest published, 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
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