



Unit 174 Newsletter July 2022 Corrections



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](#)



President's Message

President's Message - June

Hello from Rhode Island! The North American Bridge Championships start today in Providence, Rhode Island! You can follow your favorite players by looking up their names on the website live.acbl.org - just as you can look up your tournament results. Unit 174 is sending several players to the Grand National

Teams event that starts Wednesday, July 13, including the Flight C team representing District 16 – William Shepherd, Brian Dudley, Nathan Yee, and Scott Cantor.

For all players: **We want you back!** We know that we're not in a risk-free world, but your local club and the Unit (which puts on the Sectional and January Regional tournaments) need your attendance to get healthy again after those first two impossible years of Covid-19. Clubs have expenses – rent, employees, electricity, water, taxes, sanction fees, and more. Sectional tournaments also have certain fixed fees that we have to cover. If you enjoy seeing your friends and playing face-to-face bridge, make it a priority to get back to the tables and support your club and your friends. If you want face-to-face bridge to be around in the future, support it now.

The Awesome August Sectional is coming up August 11-14

-- we hope to see you there!

[Awesome August Sectional 2022 \(acblunit174.org\)](http://acblunit174.org)

Future Life Masters – those with under 500 points (and not yet a Life Master), please see the exciting announcements, including more games and opportunities to play and learn. Check out their new website at: www.flm.org. Don't miss the new once-a-month Sunday 199er game at the Arabia Shriners Center, starting July 24th. Play with your peers, but I also encourage you to “play up” once occasionally, be that a mentor-mentee game or an open game. Several clubs offer mentor-mentee games and are a great opportunity to play with a Life Master.

Thomas Rush
President, ACBL Unit 174
PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.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: Bobbie B Anderson, Ruth J Bridges, Julianne Farnsworth, Stephen R Melton, Dale A Royalty, John A Thurn, Julianne Tilision

Transfers In: Martha D Davis, Leon Gertsch, Harold Task

Welcome!

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the new Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL in July reports. An explanation of ranks may be found on



the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Don Amfahr, Cherie M Baer,
Steven R Bolinger, Lynn M Clark,
John C Eads, Janet Ellettee, Mary
K Hancock, Samuel M Nuchia

Club Master

Antoun Henri, Carolyn Myers, Patty Romigh

Sectional Master

Linda B Crum, Rathindra N Dutt, Donna J Kidwell, Jeanne M Kokes,
Pat A Salzano, Dorian A Venable

Regional Master

Gail E Burbidge, Cathy Jo R D'Antoni, Susan L Hanna, Cynthia D
Heagy, Jeanne S Phelps, David B Rhoads

NABC Master

Linda T Buice, Bill F Farrar, Laura Hayes

Advanced NABC Master

Cindy A Skeels

Life Master

Johara M Nour

Bronze Life Master

Darlyn Dusek, Ronnie T Martin

Silver Life Master

Donald W Boyd

Ruby Life Master

Christine E Caine, Anita M Rothfuss

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





Houston Unit 174 Proudly Presents



Note: ACBL has increased awards by 20%

\$1 Soda



Awesome August 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 per Session

Thur, Fri & Sat: \$12 (\$4 more for lapsed members)

Sunday: \$14 (Sunday lunch included)

Table Fees are cashless (credit card only)

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

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Aug 11-13

Stratified Open Pairs 10 & 2:30

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

Side Game (single sessions) 10 & 2:30

FLM 0-50 Gemini Pairs 10 & 2:30

Bracketed Swiss 10 & 2:30

Sunday, Aug 14

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions) 10 & TBD

Stratified 299'r Pairs (single sessions) 10 & TBD

Bracketed Swiss 10 & TBD

Please Be Scent-sitive

No Cologne

No Perfume

No Offensive Odors

Tournament Chairs

Gregory May

greg@galvestonbridge.club
(281) 933-1113

John DuBose

jd174biz@yahoo.com
(713) 315-1755

For latest copy of flyer,
please visit unit 174 website

<https://ACBLunit174.org>



Guest Speakers - TBD Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

♣ 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](https://ACBLunit174.org). 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.

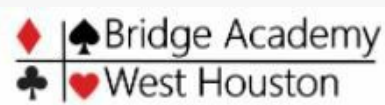
For information, please contact:

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

Club Website and Game Location

<https://www.bridgeacademyofwesthouston.com/>

Wednesdays - Invitational

Thursdays - Open

10:30 a.m.

Arabia Shriners

10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person - \$6 for upgraded games
- Proof of vaccination required
- Masks optional
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- Susan Kaplan and Jennifer Breihan, directors

No game on Thursday, Aug 11th, due to Unit 174 Awesome August Sectional.

Play Wednesday, play Free play on Thursday

July is the last month where if you play on Wednesday, you get a free play for Thursday. Don't miss your chance; only July 20/21 and July 27/28 are left.

NAP Month

July is a North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying month. NAP qualifying

games will be held on Wednesday, July 20 and July 27, and Thursday, July 21 and July 28.

Birthday Celebration

Come join our fun July birthday celebrations on Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 28.

Need a partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907,

martinsens@comcast.net.

And, if at the last minute your partner cancels, come on over anyway. We will fix you up!

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON

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

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

BCOH Online Choose Houston

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

BCOH Open Games (Face 2 Face)

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

Monday: 11:55 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 am

SAVE THE DATES:

"Open Swiss Teams" - 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am (Register at the club)

Mentor/Mentee F2F - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. (Sign up at club) or contact Judy Cupps @ judy_n_al@yahoo.com with any questions.

Celebration:

August 2nd- Life Master Party for Susan Banks-Johnson: Game at 10:30, food at Noon (Catered by Carolyn Lanier)

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

Monday Mornings with Bill

Bill Riley will give a series of lectures on various bridge topics. These topics are geared to the advanced beginner and intermediate player but are open to all.

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].

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

We are bringing back the 0-50 game Tuesday mornings. Plus! 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!**

[CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE](#) [BBO Online Games](#)

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	<i>Second Saturday only; hand review following the game →</i>					0-20 FLM Apollo	
9:50 AM	199er						
10:00 AM	499er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM						199er	
12:00 PM						Open	
3:00 PM			Open				
3:05 PM		0-20 FLM Apollo					
7:00 PM	Open			Open		Open	

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

[CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB](#)

Clear Lake Bridge Club is located at 16614 Sea Lark Road, Houston 77059. The phone number is 281-480-1911. We welcome all to any of our F2F games - open or limited, or special. Enjoy games, a friendly environment, and challenging competitive games.

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



The Longest Day...a great turnout! Our generous Members raised over \$6000 for The Alzheimer's Association! There were 21 tables for the Longest Day, and all enjoyed the festivities, including morning breakfast snacks and box lunch. Visit the website to see the club stars and visitors that made the day special.

July 4th activities included great bridge and a luncheon including club-provided BBQ and favorite dishes supplied by the members. Fun and patriotic fever filled the club.

Response and attendance to **8 is Enough, Breakfast, Lesson, and Game**, and the **Mentor-Mentee** games continue to be great. Now the 199er game is up and running with good participation for that very important early Future Life Masters. CLBC is fortunate that we have a game...we are the only club in all of greater Houston currently offering a 199er game!

July activities include the regular game structure (visit the

website) PLUS special games to promote an environment for all skill levels to have a place to enjoy the game of bridge, obtain new skills and play in a friendly, supportive club.



Weekend Games - Do you want to play FACE-TO-FACE on Saturday or Sunday afternoon?

If so, Clear Lake Bridge Club has games for you!

Saturday at 1:00. Open Pairs...bring your Partner and join us!

Sunday at 1:00. Open Teams



Regular Games

Open Pairs - 10 AM Mon/Wed/Fri and 1 PM Saturday.

Open Teams - Sunday 1 PM

I/N (749 MPs) Games - Tues/Thur 10 AM

199er Games - Wednesday 2 PM

Special Games and Events

Eight is Enough Team Game - July 1, 1 PM

Mentor-Mentee - July 20, 1:30 PM (Lunch) and 2 PM game.

Breakfast, Lesson, and Bridge Game - July 13, 9 AM

Breakfast Tacos at 9 AM followed by a lesson and the regular open game at 10 AM.



CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC

Cypress NW DBC meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, Tx, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30, with sign-up beginning at 11:00. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [**jwarren760@gmail.com**](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com).

**The Future Life Masters of Unit 174
A new look and bringing more to our
newest bridge players!**



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.flm174.org

GAMES

FACE-to-FACE

49er Bridge Club of Houston Tuesdays at 10:30 AM*
199er Clear Lake Bridge Club Wednesdays at 2:00 PM**

***the BCOH 49er game follows a 9:30 lesson with Julie Halperin!

ONLINE BBO

**0-20er FLM 2nd Saturdays at 9:00 AM (next game Aug 1st)
0-49er FLM Tuesdays at 3:05 PM
0-49er D16 Mondays at 4:00 PM
0-199er CHOOSE HOUSTON Weekdays at 9:50 AM**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sundays at Shriners

**Once a month for a relaxed Sunday afternoon
199er Game IN PERSON in Central Houston for ALL our area
players**

JULY 24th at 2:00 PM

**CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
www.flm174.org/games**



**COVID VACCINE REQUIRED
10510 Harwin Dr, Houston**

FORT BEND DBC Sugar Land

**FORT BEND DUPLICATE BRIDGE - SUGAR LAND
OPEN GAME TUESDAYS AT 9 AM
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

KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Katy DBC meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00, and the game begins at 11:30. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Regular games are \$3.

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

KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Kingwood has re-opened! They have a new game time at 10:00 am at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive Kingwood, TX 77345.

For information, contact Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or jrsimmons2102@gmail.com. Community Center Phone: (281)348-2570.

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 czthdaypjjg@gmail.com.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

The Lone Star Bridge Club in Conroe hosts two bridge games per week, Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 10:30. Table fees are always \$5.00. Coffee, water, and snacks are available. Proof of Covid vaccination is required and masks are optional. Games are stratified and held in the Fellowship Hall of St Paul Methodist Church. 100 Semands, Conroe.

Starting August 16, we will be starting a Mentee/Mentor game in Conroe! The game will be on the third Tuesday of every month, starting at 10 AM. We will play 12 boards and then have time to discuss the bidding, declarer play, and defense. The entry fee is \$5, and mentors play for free.

Please contact Linda Sutton by email or phone to sign up as a Mentee or Mentor. You may bring your own mentor, or we will match you up with a Life Master from our club. Please register with lindasutton212@gmail.com, or at 936-443-3600.

A new series of six bridge lessons for beginners is scheduled to begin the first Tuesday in September. Classes will include instruction and supervised play and are scheduled from 10 am to Noon. The cost is \$25 for all six lessons, or \$5 each. The instructor is Linda Sutton, with the assistance of members of the Lone Star Bridge Club.

In August, Jeff will take any questions on splinters and then move on to:

- When to bypass a four card major to bid notrump: modern system (Walsh System.
- Mixed raises
- Bergen raises
- Dealing with interference
- 1NT forcing vs. semi-forcing

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

July 2022 ACBL Bridge Bulletin Notes Jeff Kroll Sam Khayatt

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

1. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 4 (p.42). Although two panelists are content with a nonforcing 3♠ bid, seven chose to bid the aggressive game. At matchpoints it's a difficult decision, at IMPS we believe all the panelists would have bid 4S. Those who bid the game focused on trick-taking more than on points.
2. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 44), Deal 1. A loser-on-loser play makes the contract.
3. "Startup Bridge" by Lynn Berg (p.47). Topics covered:
 - Overcalling at the 1-level with a good suit with little else to get the killing lead from partner,
 - Doubling artificial bids for a lead,
 - Pushing them up by balancing, and
 - When to preempt.
4. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 51), Deal 2: when to open a four-card major even when you're playing five-card majors.
5. "Mike's Bridge Lesson: More thoughts on balancing" by Mike Lawrence (p. 52): when to balance and why.
6. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 53): four deals
 - Go for the 50% chance instead of something hopeless
 - Go for the 75% chance instead of something hopeless
 - At trick one, don't burn the entry you will need to make your contract
 - Make the key play at trick one to ensure your contract
7. "The Real Deal: Succumbing to temptation" by Larry Cohen (p. 55). Another situation where not to burn at trick one; the trick needed to make the contract.
8. "Boehm on Bridge: Remedies for double trouble - Part 1" by August Boehm (p. 56): situations where double is takeout, penalty, or lead-directing.
9. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgment - part 14" by Marty Bergen (p. 57). Topics include:
 - Going with the known 5-3 fit,

- Planning your second bid before making your first bid, and
- Properly evaluating your hand.

Our Favorites

“Startup Bridge” by Lynn Berg (p.47)

Berg discusses overcalling (or not) with hands containing few high-card points.

♠ 96 ♥KQJ92 ♦ 832 ♣ 1087

It is correct to overcall 1♥ over a 1♣ or 1♦ opening with this hand, even though it has only six high card points. We would make the same 1♥ bid if the ♥J were replaced by the ♥T. The hand is not strong enough for a two-level overcall. But you need to bid the hearts to help partner know what to lead. For this reason, we mark our convention card that one-level overcalls can be made with six points.

♠ A6 ♥ J9754 ♦ K83 ♣ J108

This hand has nine points but is not worth a one-level overcall as you don't particularly want a heart lead and may talk partner out of a more promising lead.

♠ A6 ♥ J9754 ♦ KQ8 ♣ KJ7

This hand is worth a 1♥ overcall even though we don't particularly want a heart lead. We believe that it might be our hand to declare and we need to show our five-card heart suit.

♠ 6 ♥ KJ108643 ♦ Q62 ♣ 75

This is a great hand to preempt with. We have minimal defense and if partner wants to lead to us, it better be a heart.

♠ 6 ♥ J1087643 ♦ AQ6 ♣ K8

This is a terrible hand to preempt with. We have good defense and don't want a heart led to us. We either open it 1♥ or pass.

“Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgement - part 14” by Marty Bergen (p. 57)

Partner opens 1♥ and RHO passes. What is the correct bid with the following hands?

♠ AK1062 ♥ 1097 ♦ 64 ♣ 542

As much as we would like to bid 1♠, the correct bid is 2♥. We need to think about our second bid before we make our first bid. If partner now bids 2♣ or 2♦, which is likely, we would have to bid

2♥. In that sequence, 2♥ shows a preference for hearts over the minor and suggests only two-card heart support. 2♠ would show six spades. Better to support immediately.

Bergen points out that since partner has shown five hearts, partner will have four spades in the remaining eight slots less than 20% of the time.

♠ J642 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ10976 ♣ 53

This is another “think about your second bid before you make your first bid” situation. Most would erroneously bid 1♠. Then when partner makes a likely 2♣ bid (after all, the other three hands have 11 clubs), we are stuck. A diamond bid would be 4th suit forcing to game in most partnerships.

The solution to this bidding problem is to bid 1NT on our first bid. If partner bids 2♣, we would bid 2♦. That sequence shows a long suit and a weak hand.

This is a classic Jacoby/Bergen 3NT bid, showing 4-3-3-3 distribution, only three trump, and 13-15 HCP. This tells partner we have support and enough for game but are not ruffing anything. Partner can then take charge of exploring for the best contract. Many times, but not always, the final contract will be 3N, if the same number of tricks can be made for a higher score. If partner doesn't like notrump, partner can bid 4H or, with a big hand, explore for slam.

Go for the Gusto

Thomas Rush

PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com

12 July 2022

Gusto is defined as enthusiasm or energy. Sometimes you're given a choice - between making a middling play that may work but won't do much or making a play that gets your side all that it can get: a result you can grab with gusto!

On a recent hand, you're south and hold:

♠ K5
♥ K4
♦ KJ97
♣ A9864

The opponents are vulnerable, partner deals, and the auction is

N	E	S	W
P	1H	2C	4H
X	P	P	P

Take a moment to think about your lead.
Before you lead, you should try to visualize the defense.

To visualize the defense, you need to think about each of the other hands: declarer's, dummy's, and partner's.

What do we know about the other hands?

- You have 14 high card points and have shown that with your 2 Club overcall
- Partner has less than an opening hand, looks to be short in hearts, but doubled 4H.
- East (RHO) has opened the bidding and you expect him to have five or more hearts.

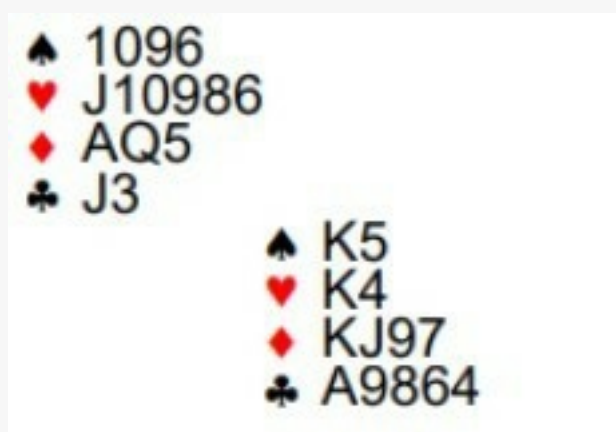
Those are the facts that you know.

What can you infer about the hand from the auction?

- From the jump to 4H, you think that West probably has five or more hearts, and likely a singleton at this vulnerability. She may not have much in the way of high cards.
- Your partner North must have some values, perhaps close to an opening hand for the double (You only play responsive doubles through the 3-level, so partner's double is not strictly a takeout double)
- You are hopeful that your king of hearts and ace of diamonds will be tricks. Your side needs to come up with two more for a one-trick set - but that gets you only +100, which won't be a good score if partner's hand allows you to make at least two of a major or three of a minor (+110 or more). Therefore, you are looking for a two-trick set, at least +300 for your side.

What lead do you make? There's not a standout lead here (to my mind); perhaps you start with the Ace of Clubs to get an idea of the lay of the land.

Dummy comes down, and you see:



(Dummy on the left, your hand on the bottom of the image)

Partner plays a discouraging card. Now what? Where do those two extra tricks come from?

At the table,

- Trick 2 South continued with a club to declarer's King (as North played a club spot card)
- Trick 3 South cashed the Ace of hearts; all followed
- Trick 4 South played a low heart; you win the king perforce, partner plays the 8 of Diamonds.

You're on lead. What do you do?

Did you stop to think about how your analysis before your opening lead has been proven or disproved? How are you adjusting your thoughts given what you know now?

What new information can we know with certainty?

- Partner did not cover the club jack with the queen, so he does not have the queen; declarer must.
- Declarer started with exactly five hearts to the AQ, and with the KQx of clubs (partner would have likely encouraged the club continuation with a doubleton, but did not, therefore he must have three or four, but declarer has played K and x of clubs and is marked with the queen, so the suit must be 3-3 in the unseen hands).
- Partner had no high cards in clubs or hearts, and you can see that he has no high cards in diamonds; what in the world is he doubling on?

Given the above, what can you infer about your partner's hand? Then what is the right defense?

Partner must have strength in spades. If partner doesn't have the ace of spades, you are not setting this hand; in addition, your partner is a madman and you should be looking for a new partner. In fact, to get your two-trick set, partner must have the AQ of spades, and you must lead your king (to unblock) and then continue spades.

At the table, South didn't have confidence in his partner or didn't feel convinced about what he'd worked out about the hand. Or perhaps he didn't see the need to set the contract by two tricks. In any case, he led a low spade (!), partner won the Ace, and continued with the Queen, which South had to overtake (he had only the spade King left, but I'm not going to use 'perforce' twice in one article)... and now South was endplayed, and N/S could take only four tricks.

The complete board:

N Deals	♠ AQJ2	25
E-W Vul	♥ 2	
	♦ 108632	
	♣ 1072	
♠ 1096		♠ 8743
♥ J10986		♥ AQ753
♦ AQ5		♦ 4
♣ J3		♣ KQ5
	♠ K5	
7	♥ K4	
8 11	♦ KJ97	
14	♣ A9864	
EW 2♥; S 3♦; N 2♦; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; Par +110		

I believe that expert and even advanced players should have been able to work out to shift to the spade king when they see dummy and partner's discouraging club at trick 1. What else could partner have to double on, other than the AQ of spades? How else could your side take five tricks, unless you got three spade tricks?

As it was, declarer missed a chance to ensure down only one, when he didn't cash the heart Ace and then immediately pitch one of dummy's spades on the club Queen (who cares if someone ruffs with the master trump?). East then limits himself to these losers: One club, one heart, and two spades, -100.

Mind you, +100 for North/South did turn out to be a decent board (11 of 17 possible matchpoints, 65%) - but +300 is a 16 out of 17 possible, over 94%, and would have added over one full percentage point to our game (29% divided by 27 boards). Getting that extra trick for a few extra Matchpoints on a few boards often pushes you up a few places, perhaps even into first or second place!

The bigger lesson is to picture opponents' and partners' hands based on the auction, and from that picture, figure out the maximum number of tricks your side can take. In a team game (IMP scoring), this is an important step in figuring out how you can set contracts that make at the other tables. In Matchpoints or IMP scoring, taking the time to figure out how you can get that extra trick once you've set the contract pays huge dividends.

Are you going to defend lazily, or are you going to go for the gusto and take every trick you can?



Summer is here and with it comes the heat. Great time to spend time inside playing bridge.

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 Thomas Rush at [Thomas Rush](#)

If you would like to have your club info or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment you are proud of and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and event title to unit174newsletter@gmail.com.

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