



## Unit 174 Newsletter June 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
  - *Safety Plays* - Jack Lavigne

Please visit the Unit 174 Website ([www.acblunit174.org](http://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

A hearty Congratulations to the Unit 174 folk who won the District 16 Grand National Teams (GNT) event! They will go on to play in the National finals at the Summer Nationals in Providence, RI. One pair from Unit 174 was on the winning Flight A team (under 6000 Masterpoints): James Zhan and Yin Peng. The flight C team was all Unit 174 players: William Shepherd, Brain Dudley, Scott Cantor, and Nathan Yee. For winning the Flight C event, they were awarded 10 gold and 10 red points. They can win a bunch more gold in Providence! Kudos to Susan Banks-Johnson, whose tie for third in this event earned her 5 gold and 5 red Masterpoints and put her over the top to Life Master.

The North American Pairs (NAP) is the companion event to the

Grand National Teams, and qualification is going on now. Flights are C, under 500 and non-Life Master; B, under 2500; and Open, unlimited.

Much like the GNT, the NAP starts when you play and qualify at the club in a designated NAP qualifying game during June, July, or August. The top 60% or so in each flight earn a Q and are qualified to play in the District event, normally held in January. The top pairs from the District event earn the right to represent the District at the National Finals held during the Spring Nationals (2023 in New Orleans). In flight A, three pairs move on, and four pairs in each of flight B and C. In addition, each pair gets a stipend to help with travel expenses!

I encourage you to make plans to play in one of the local NAP Qualification events. They're a lot of fun, you get to play against the best of your peers, you might win gold points, and if you qualify, you'll get money toward your travel expenses when you play in the national finals in New Orleans! (I've had the honor of representing the District in both the NAP and GNT. They're a blast!)

In other goings-on, the June Sectional was a success even if turnout wasn't as much as we hoped for. Tournament Chairs Charley Dalton and Byron Fackenthal did a great job with all the details. We had several people help us with both setup and tear down, and it made a huge difference, allowing the board to spend half the time they'd otherwise spend - Thank you everyone who came!

I encourage you to come out and play if you haven't been to a tournament since Covid hit. Don't let all your friends have all the fun (or win all the Masterpoints)! As an added incentive, the ACBL is adding a 20% bonus to overall points at Sectionals and Regionals through late May.

We will hope to see you at the Awesome August Sectional, August 11-14 at the Arabia Shrine Center on Harwin - a great location!

I've got a hard-working board helping me get things done this year. We're hoping to have some of you help spread the load by volunteering. Dolores Aquino is working as our Volunteer Coordinator for the Unit. If you are able to donate a bit of time to the Unit, she can find you something that matches your interests. Or, if you get a call from her, she knows you're a good fit for the position she's calling about, so give her a listen. Reach Dolores at [dcaquino2246@yahoo.com](mailto:dcaquino2246@yahoo.com)

The Future Life Masters (FLM) team continues to be hard at work. They've implemented the first phase of the program, and are readying a presentation to your Unit board to tell us what to look forward to in the next year. We look forward to hearing from them, and recruiting and retaining these oh-so-important newer players (or just those who, like many of us, haven't played for 20 or 30 years while work and family kept them busy). Look for news on the FLM group, and think about those of your neighbors and friends who might want to see what's happening in bridge!

Thomas Rush  
President, ACBL Unit 174  
[PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com)



## **New Members, Rank Advancements, and Member News**



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:

**May:** Marjorie J Abell, Christine B Dugan, Russell Hall, Mary D Johnson, Askana Miakish,

Yan Song

**June:** Don Amfahr, Pepe Banda, Violet Boyles, Nathen Breed, Lynn M Clark, Allen Dai, Janet Elletee, Adam Eishahawi, Dina Eishahawi, Joel M Farber, Maria Farina, John C Herzer, Amrita Kumar, Molly P Lamme, Kate McCullagh, Peter W Nimmo, Elizabeth Nuchia, Samuel M Nuchia, Dennis J Palasek, Jonathan Schmit, Ann Starr, Maudelia G Ulmer, Marion J Usher, Marion M Usher, Kelly Ye

***Welcome!***



### **RANK ADVANCEMENTS**

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

#### ***Junior Master:***

Judith E Cobb, Abbas A Kapasi, David E, Preng, Dipika Varia, Rita Zwartkruis, Joel Farber, Amy Hart, Antoun Henri, Amber McCullagh, Bradford Scott

#### ***Club Master:***

William R Belford, Crissy A Clarke, Carolyn A Hardy, Hendra Iskandar, Charles H Otto, Ken Russel, Melissa Hinton, Marci Keller, Amy Mannie, Edwin Tumlinson

#### ***Sectional Master: (211 in Unit 174)***

Marilyn Beal, Robert D Lane, Ann L Bragg, Michael Graham, Gary Kerr, Lois A McCallister, Robert M Rodd, Michael S Wei, Ellen Rochelle

#### ***NABC Master:***

Mahlon E First, Mark S Oswald, Cindy Schaefer, Pamela Vincent, Susie S Way, George McKinley

#### ***Advanced NABC Master:***

Hasin F Jinna, Patricia Freeman, Janice Hardcastle, Nathan Yee

***Life Master:***

Sandra A Maalouf, Susan Banks-Johnson, Brian Dudley

***Bronze Life Master:***

Brian Dudley, Shirley Kingsley

***Silver Life Master***

Stephen Bickel, Doug Boswell, B Haznedar, David Kuykendall,  
Jeannie Stone

***Ruby Life Master:***

Clarissa M Dowdy, Thomas S Martinsen, Gail Gillespie, Shirley  
Hooks, Syed R Naqvi, George Nelson

***Gold Life Master:***

Linda J McReynolds, Jo Ann Pierce, Lisa Sommer

***Sapphire Life Master***

Chuck Gillis, Max Levit

***Diamond Life Master:***

Julie Halperin

***Emerald Life Master***

Ronald L Brown

# 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](mailto: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.

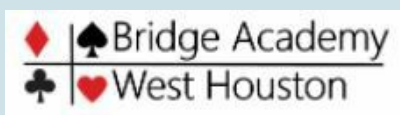
For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Paul Cuneo  
[paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net) - 281-851-0422

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer  
[sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information at [appledbcs.com](http://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/>

Arabia Shrine Center (10510 Harwin Dr. Houston, Texas 77036)

\*Entrance is on the left side near the back of the building.

### **Game Information and Schedule**

All friendly players are invited to play in our **Wednesday** Invitational game which is for all but the top 30 master point holders in Unit 174 and professional players. **Thursday** is an Open game.

- Weekly games: Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 am
- Entry: \$5 per person - \$6 for upgraded games
- Proof of vaccinations required; masks optional
- Ambassador Program for those arriving without a partner
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- All games are upgraded

### **Special June Promotion**

- **Play on Wednesday, Get a Free Play for the next day!**

### **June and July Special Events**

#### **Longest Day Auction and Game**

To bid on securing a future "Play with A Top 200 Unit Player" or a "Lesson with a Unit Teaching Pro" [click here](#). Create a Win for both yourself and the Alzheimer's Association in the process!!

**\*\*Auction ends Wednesday, June 22 at 3 pm**

\*For assistance with the auction site or bidding, contact Lauri Laufman at 281-235-8777.

To donate, [click here](#) to do via credit card or PayPal, or bring your check (made out to the Alzheimer's Association) to our club.

To play, our Open Pairs Game will be held on Thursday, June 23 at 10:30 am.

*\* Players are encouraged to bring an appetizer or dessert*

**North American Pair (NAP) Qualifiers** will be held on Wednesday (June 22, July 6 & 27) and Thursday (June 30, July 7 & 28).

**Birthday Celebrations** Come join our fun June birthday celebrations on Wednesday, June 29, and Thursday, June 30. We will celebrate those having birthdays in July on Wednesday, July 27, and Thursday, July 28. Cake served!

### **Need a partner?**

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907,  
[martinsens@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:B7rnitddgbel@gmail.com)**

**BCOH Online Choose Houston**

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

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

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

**Monday: 11:55 am**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 am**

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**"Open Swiss Teams" - 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](mailto:judy_n_al@yahoo.com) with any questions.**

**July 16th - Saturday F2F game. Potluck lunch at 11:00 am (bring your favorite dish) Game will start at 12:00 pm**

**July 4th - Come celebrate America's Birthday!! Hot dogs will**



**be provided please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. Lunch/Celebration begins at 11:00 am with game to follow at noon.**

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

### **Monday Mornings with Bill**

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

**Bill Riley is a Diamond Life Master, certified ACBL director, as well as an outstanding and entertaining teacher. Having taught Pediatrics for 40 years, he is now teaching bridge. The usual cost of the lecture is \$2.00, which we will collect at the door [when we verify COVID vaccination cards for those at the club for the first time].**

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

**Initial offerings:**

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

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

**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!**



*SILVER POINTS ! SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS!*  
**499/NLM Tournament**  
**June 23-26, 2022**

4688 Louetta Rd., Spring TX (next to Tuesday Morning)  
 281-651-6550 | [www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh)

### Partnership

Need a partner? Contact  
**Gretchen Lindquist** at  
 832-643-9535 or [gem731@att.net](mailto:gem731@att.net)

### 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

**Janice Hardcastle**  
[Janice\\_Hardcastle@hotmail.com](mailto:Janice_Hardcastle@hotmail.com)

**Pre-registration** is highly recommended on our website ([www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh)) for pairs and swiss teams  
 A swiss team sign-up sheet will also be available during the tournament

### Event Schedule

**Thursday, June 23**  
 ♠ 499r Pairs 10am  
 ♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

**Friday, June 24**  
 ♠ 499r Pairs 10am  
 ♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

**Saturday, June 25**  
 ♠ 499r Pairs 10am  
 ♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

**Sunday, June 26**  
 ♠ 499r Swiss Team 1:30pm

### Ask the Expert

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

**PROOF OF COVID VACCINATION REQUIRED**  
*Masks optional*  
*Club HVAC system, filters are upgraded*

**Next 499/NLM tournament**  
**October 6-9, 2022**

## 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. 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.



Response and attendance to **8 is Enough, Breakfast, Lesson, and Game** and the **Mentor-Mentee** games continue to be great. These very successful events will be continued.

Visit the web page at [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org) for details on open games, I/N games, and special games.



**June - July activities** include the regular game structure PLUS special games to promote an environment for all skill levels to have a place to enjoy the game of bridge, obtain new skills and play in a friendly supportive club.

Longest Day:

### **ACBI's Longest Day Alzheimer's Annual Fundraiser at Clear Lake Bridge Club**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

**10 AM Open Game**

**2 PM 199'er Game**

***It's time to fight Alzheimer's Disease at the Clear Lake Bridge Club!***

**Here's what YOU can do:**

**Bid in a silent auction to play with some of our club's best players, AKA Stars**

- **Face to face with a Star at 10 AM on Wednesday, June 22**
- **Online at a later date to be determined by the winning bidder and Star**
- **Bid sheets were posted on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 8. Bidding will close at 2 PM on Monday, June 20. We will call the winning bidders on the afternoon of June 20.**

**Play with your favorite partner in our June 22 open game at 10 AM and in the 199'er game at 2 PM if you have fewer than 200 Master Points.**

**Visit the website for more details.**

**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.

#### **Full Schedule of NAP and STaC Games in June/July**



## **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.

Club Championship June 21 and 23

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



**ALL NEWCOMERS, PLEASE JOIN US!**

**FLM**

**EXCITING NEWS IN THAT FLM HAS HAD ' WELL OVER 250 TABLES ONLINE TO DATE...**

**NOTICE THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR TUESDAY 3:05 GAME TO INCLUDE 0-50 MP HOLDERS!**

**FLM is working 'behind the scenes to bring you more! More games, more events, and more programs...coming soon. Watch for our announcement in July!**

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

**Come Play with Us!**

**FLM Schedule for the On-Line Games:**

- **Apollo - 0-20 MPs**

2nd Saturday - 9:00 am - Houston FLM Apollo 0-20. Assisted Play & Board Review

- **Gemini - 0-50 MPs**

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

Tuesday - 3:05 pm - Houston U174 FLM Gemini 0-50. Assisted Play

**We Encourage All of Our Newcomers to Join Us!**

To learn more about our FLM Playing Groups,

CLICK HERE: [Future Life Masters](#)

Sundays at Shriners  
199er Game  
**JULY 24th**  
*Relaxed Sunday afternoons 2:00*  
*Friends*  
*Snacks*  
*Bridge*  
\$5.00 18 Boards  
Post-Game Review

Brought to you by  
Future Life Masters  
of Unit 174  
Arabia Shriners Center  
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 AVAILABLE**
- **FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 9 TABLES**

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

**JOHN ERIC WATSON**  
[ewat2004@aol.com](mailto: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.

Club Championship June 22

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

### **LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB**

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

**For the month of July Jeff's lesson has been moved to the second Monday, July 11, at 11 am**, DLM Jeff Kroll teaches a lesson to benefit all levels of players.

In July Jeff will take any questions on splinters by responder and then move on to complete the 1H/1S opener section.

- Mixed Raises
- Bergen Raises
- Drury
- Reverse Drury
- 2 Way Reverse Drury
- Forcing vs semi-forcing 1NT bids.
- Bidding when an opponent interferes

Then when the auction goes:

1 of a minor - 1H

when opener should bypass opener's 4 card spade suit to bid notrump.

Then he will go on to the 1NT, 2NT, and 3NT sections.

**We are having a barbecue for our 4th of July party with players bringing side dishes to share.**

**On July 7th a Board meeting is scheduled for after the game. Everyone is welcome to attend!**

**July 11. Pizza day**

Please visit our website by clicking here: [www.lonestarbridgeclub.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com).



## **Guest Editors**

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### **June 2022 ACBL Bridge Bulletin Notes** **Jeff Kroll** **Sam Khayatt**

These are what we believe are the most useful articles in this Bulletin:

1. "Vic's Views" by Vic Quiros (p. 32). Why everyone plays reverses. They force the auction to a level that's appropriate only if you have a strong hand. Also includes examples of when not to reverse. The article includes a quick quiz.
2. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (p. 41). How to reach the correct 5♣ contract by evaluating the West hand properly and opening 1NT.
3. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 4 (p.44). Downgrading a response with 11 HCP but only one stopper in the opponents' suit and poor spot cards. All but one panelist bid 1NT, not 2NT.
4. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 46). Two loser-on-a-loser play deals.
5. "Lessons Learned" by Michael Berkowitz (p. 50). Why 2D, 2H and 2S are the only appropriate Stayman responses by opener. We also like to play Crawling Stayman. If opener responds with a major, the way to show a fit and slam interest is to bid 3 of the other major.
6. "Challenge of the Month" (p. 57). A dummy reversal problem.
7. "Boehm on Bridge: Trump management - review" by August Boehm (p.58). Three basic types of hands where you should not pull



trump:

- a. You need to trump with the cards in the short hand
  - b. You need the trumps as entries
  - c. You can't afford to lose the lead
8. "Bidding Matters". by Karen Walker (p. 60). Big double auctions can be awkward; it is often preferable to overcall, even with a big hand.

## Our Favorites

### "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (p. 41).

Reach the correct 5♣ contract by evaluating the West hand properly and opening 1NT.

**Problem 8**  
West deals. None vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A 10 3	♠ 4
♥ 6 2	♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ A K J 10	♦ 3 2
♣ Q 9 7 6	♣ J 10 8 5 4

<i>Bridge Bulletin Auction</i>			
	West	East	
<i>Only 14 HCP, but we like to add a point for the two useful 10s.</i>	1N (1)	2♦	<i>Transfer to hearts</i>
<i>Accepting transfer.</i>	2♥	3♣	<i>Game force. Second suit. Bit of a stretch, but distribution is good.</i>
<i>Natural.</i>	3♦	3♥	
<i>Spade stop.</i>	3♠	4♣	<i>One spade stop is not enough for NT</i>
	5♣		

(1) Bergen recommends adding a point for three tens. We like to add a point for the two useful 10s. Also, aces are worth more than four; Bergen recommends adding a point for 3 aces, surely 2 aces are worth at least 1/2 point or more. Both expert contestants also opened this hand 1NT.

**4. Fingers and toes**  
 IMPs. East-West vulnerable.

♠965	♥A652	♦KJ9	♣K76
West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	?

**“It’s Your Call” by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 4 (p.44)**

Most panelists bid 1NT although this hand has 11 points, which is

what is needed for a 2NT response. The 1NT bidders were concerned that the hand would play poorly because:

1. The spots are bad
2. The shape is the worst
3. There is only one heart stop. Cohen would have bid 2NT with a stop and a half.
4. The hand will be played from the wrong side.
5. Game is unlikely. With 15-17 HCP, partner would have opened 1NT. With 14 HCP (or fewer), 3NT is unlikely to make.

*North (Dummy)*

♠ QJ7  
 ♥ A83  
 ♦ K82  
 ♣ Q1094

*South (You)*

♠ K5  
 ♥ QJ1096  
 ♦ A74  
 ♣ KJ3

**“Boehm on Bridge: Trump management - review” by August Boehm (p.58)**

Three situations where you do not want to pull trump:

1. You need to trump with the cards in the short hand
2. You need the trumps as entries
3. You can’t afford to lose the lead

Against 4♥, West leads the ♦J.

You would like to take the heart finesse, but if it loses, and

the defense returns a diamond (which many defenders would), then you will lose one trick in each suit for down 1.

You need to work on the spades ASAP. That way you can discard your diamond loser on a high spade.

This deal also shows the importance of thinking at trick one. You should win the ace of diamonds at trick one so if the King of spades is allowed to win and the ace of hearts gets knocked out, you have preserved the ♦K as an entry to the good spade.

## Safety Plays by Jack Lavigne

A safety play is a play made to maximize the chance of making your contract.

Safety plays are frequently made in team games where one would willingly give up an overtrick to ensure making your contract. However, safety plays do find a place in matchpoints as well. Imagine that you are in a doubled contract or have bid a slam that you feel most players will not reach. Clearly, in those circumstances, one will prefer to give up an overtrick if it improves the chance of making the contract.

### Example 1

North

♥ AQ1052

South

♥ 8643

Imagine that you are playing six hearts and this is the trump suit. The best play to achieve five tricks is to lead to the Q and, provided the J does not fall on your right, bang down the A. You will make five tricks approximately 26.5% of the time.

However, suppose that you have no other losers. The only possible loser is in the trump suit. In a team game, you want to maximize the probability of making four tricks. If you happen to make five tricks, well and good, but you **don't** want to make only three tricks.

Can you see a line of play that maximizes the chance of making four tricks?

The answer is to lead a heart to the A. If the K or J drops on your right, you are home. If the K drops on your right you can return to hand and lead a heart to the T and make five tricks. If the J drops you lead the Q from the dummy and promote the 10.

If only a spot card appears, come back to hand and lead towards the dummy. You will make four tricks unless the KJx is to the right of the dummy (no play works for the case).

Suppose instead you hook the Q. If it loses to the K, you are faced with a very difficult position. Come back to your hand and lead a small card towards dummy's A10. If the J appears you are home free. However, if your left-hand opponent plays a spot card, then one of these two situations exist

a)Jxx K

b)xx KJ

If the K was singleton, you need to hook the 10. If it is KJ doubleton, you need to play the A. The odds between these two possible holdings are very close. You are faced with a scary guess.

Playing the A first will win four tricks a whopping 83% of the time. This is great odds!

### **Example 1**

North

♣ AJ52

South

♣ K43

Imagine that you are in 3N and need to make three tricks out of this club combination. At a first glance it looks like laying down the K and leading toward the dummy to finesse the Jack is a good line of play. This will win three tricks any time clubs are 3-3 or if the Q of clubs is onside. The odds in favor of taking three tricks is approximately 69%, good odds.

Can you find a safety play to improve the chance of taking three tricks?

The proper safety with this combination is to lead low to the A and then back to the K. For the third play of this suit, lead low towards the J.

As in the first line of play, this will win three tricks whenever clubs are 3-3 or if the Q of clubs is onside. However, you gain a trick when the Qx of clubs is offside. The odds for getting three tricks by playing as described increases from 69% to 77%.

Congratulations if you found this line.

### **Summary**

Safety plays occur when the prime motivation is to make your contract.



**From the Editors**

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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](mailto:unit174newsletter@gmail.com).

Jeanne Phelps and Linda Warren  
Co-editors of Unit 174 monthly newsletter  
[unit174newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:unit174newsletter@gmail.com) and [lwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:lwarren760@gmail.com)

