



## Unit 174 Newsletter March 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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  - [End plays at Suit Contracts by Jack Lavigne](#)
  - [March 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt](#)

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.



### President's Message

#### 11th President's Message

Spring is finally here (almost)! Baseball is starting soon, but Spring Training is already underway. Most of our favorite Astros are back, with the exception of George Springer. March Madness is upon us and will be springing into action this week. We reset our clocks this weekend to spring forward for Daylight Savings Time. For those fans of *Outlander* and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, we were promised new episodes this spring. Both are now available!

Then there is the Houston Rodeo. We always seem to have chilly, blustery weather at the beginning of the rodeo for the trail riders, which usually culminates with beautiful Spring weather by the last day of the rodeo.

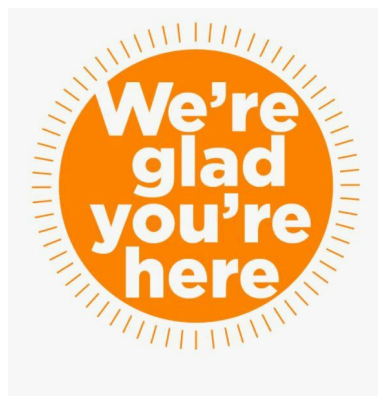
The beautiful spring flowers are now blooming as the weather is trying to become balmy. The virus is no longer a dominating factor in our activities, as we all are starting to resume our pre-Covid-19 lives. We would all be enjoying these positive changes to our day-to-day lives were it not for the terrible situation in Ukraine and the

ramifications we are all feeling.

Our annual Spring Election Sectional is just a few weeks away, from April 8th-10th. We hope you will all attend. Our Annual meeting will be on Sunday the 10th, and we need a quorum. Masks are no longer required, but you will need Proof of Vaccination (PoV). The following weekend we will be celebrating our Spring holidays, Passover and Easter. Spring is a time of hope and renewal, and the signs are everywhere!



## **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:

**Bellaire:** Bradford Scott

**Conroe:** Linda D Hensley

**Houston:** John C Eads, Abbas A Kapasi, Mr. Boyce M Robbins

**Livingston:** Ivy F Hooks, Mrs. Frankie L Brown

**Richmond:** Ms. Mai Anh Nguyen, Mr. Vijay A Shirsat

***Welcome!***



### **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:*** Gerald Kissner, Amy Mannie, Glen Petrick, Ken Russell, Lawrence Tetzlaff, Linda K West

***Club Master:*** Ashok K Chhabra, Marc Sullivan, H Ray Yoder

***Regional Master:*** David S Good

***NABC Master:*** Scott B Cantor

***Bronze Life Master:*** William J Churchman, Michael P O'Shea, Cherry K Schwarz

**Silver Life Master:** Evvie A Gilbert, Frederick H Gregory,  
Jennifer L Lindner

**Ruby Life Master:** Jack Dean, Jeanette M Dean, Joyce M Gore,  
Maxine Nobbman

**Total Unit 174 Members - 2314**

## 174 Unit News

**Electional Sectional - Please mark your calendar!**  
**Note - There have been some schedule time changes.**



Unit 174 Proudly Presents the  
**2022**  
April 8th thru 10th  
**Election Sectional**






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

**ARABIA SHRINE CENTER**

10510 Harwin Dr,  
Houston, TX 77036



**Stratification**

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

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

Bracketed Swiss  
Brackets of 7-9 teams



**Table Fees**

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

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

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

**Covid Safety**

See Unit 174 website ([acblunit174.org](http://acblunit174.org))  
for latest guidelines

**Playing Schedule**

**Friday and Saturday, Apr 8 & 9th**

Stratified Open Pairs	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>
Stratified 299'r Pairs ( <i>single sessions</i> )	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>
Side Game ( <i>single sessions</i> )	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>
0- 20 Apollo pairs ( <i>Fri &amp; Sat Only</i> )	<b>10</b>
Bracketed Swiss	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>

**Sunday, Apr 10th**

Stratified Open Pairs ( <i>single sessions</i> )	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>
Stratified 299'r Pairs ( <i>single sessions</i> )	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>
Bracketed Swiss	<b>10 &amp; 3:00</b>

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

**Election Results & Awards (10 min) 2:50**

**Tournament Chairs**

<p><b>Kathy McDougall</b> <i>katmac432@hotmail.com</i> (832) 876-9516</p> <p><b>Hospitality Chair</b> Karen Nimmons <i>kjnimmons@sbcglobal.net</i> (713) 468-0454</p> <p><b>I/N Chair</b> Betty Westbrook <i>bwestbrook@marketsciences.com</i> (713) 851-0026</p>	<p><b>Charles Dalton</b> <i>cdinc35@att.net</i> (713) 861-3399</p> <p><b>Partnership</b> Carol Jewett <i>m8ck@aol.com</i> (713) 517-7436</p>
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Guest Speakers - 2:30 Friday and Saturday







Friday: **Joe Quinn**      Be Scent-sitive      Saturday: **Vinh Tran**

## Three Ways to Vote for our new Board Members: In-Person, Online, or by Mail

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

All members in good standing in Unit 174 will have the opportunity to vote for three members to its Board of Directors April 8-10, 2022, during the Election Sectional at the Marriott Houston Westchase.

The three newly elected members will be announced prior to the second session on Sunday, April 10 and join Dave Becker, Charles Dalton, Greg May, Kathy McDougall, Karen Nussbaum, and Thomas Rush to complete the full nine-member Board. This year's Nominating Committee consisting of Paul Nimmons (chair), Hallie Eads, Nancy Guthrie, Terry Harrison, and Catherine Miller urges you to vote, either in person, early online, or absentee ballot.

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

#### Voting Information

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

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

**Early online voting** will be available from March 14 until April 5 at 3pm. Go to [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org), click on the VOTE button on the right hand side of the page, and follow the instructions.

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

Voting Information: For a ballot to be counted, a member must vote for at least one candidate, which can include a write-in candidate. In-person voting will take place one hour before each session of the tournament on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. **Early online voting will be available from March 14 until April 5 at 3 pm.** Go to [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org), click on the VOTE button on the right-hand side of the page, and follow the instructions. To vote by mail, contact the Election Judge, Ken Hudson, by March 12 via U.S. mail, e-mail, or telephone to request an Official Ballot. His contact information is 1903 Park Lodge Ct, Houston, TX 77062; his email is [kghudson@comcast.net](mailto:kghudson@comcast.net) (281) 488-1781. The ballot must be returned per provided instructions and postmarked no later than March 25 and must be received by the Election Judges no later than April 5 to be counted.

## Charity, Charity, Charity!

There are lots of charity games coming up in the next few weeks!

- March 22 **ACBL Grass Roots Fund**
- March 23 **D16 Charity Fund**
- March 24 **ACBL Grass Roots Fund**
- March 25 **D16 Charity Fund**

March 28 **ACBL Grass Roots**  
March 30 **Unit Charity**  
March 31 **ACBL Grass Roots**  
April 1 **Unit Charity**  
April 4-10 **ACBL Charity Foundation Charity Week**

The games on **March 23, 25, 30, and April 1** will benefit the Houston Food Bank. For 40 years, the Houston Food Bank has provided support for millions of neighbors. They have grown from distributing one million pounds of food their first year to providing access to 150 million nutritious meals annually thanks to their hard-working staff and supportive community. Please lend your support by playing these games.

April is the ACBL Charity Foundation month where clubs can offer special games which award more masterpoints and raise money for local charities, as well as for the Foundation. The bridge community has the opportunity to raise funds that charities desperately need by playing in as many bridge games as possible during **Charity Week, April 4-10.**

For questions, contact Nancy Strohmer, U174 Charity Coordinator

# 199ER NITE CLUB

*Ready to Graduate from  
the 0 to 99 Game?*

**D16'S 199ER NITE CLUB GAME  
ON BBO IS YOUR NEXT STEP!**

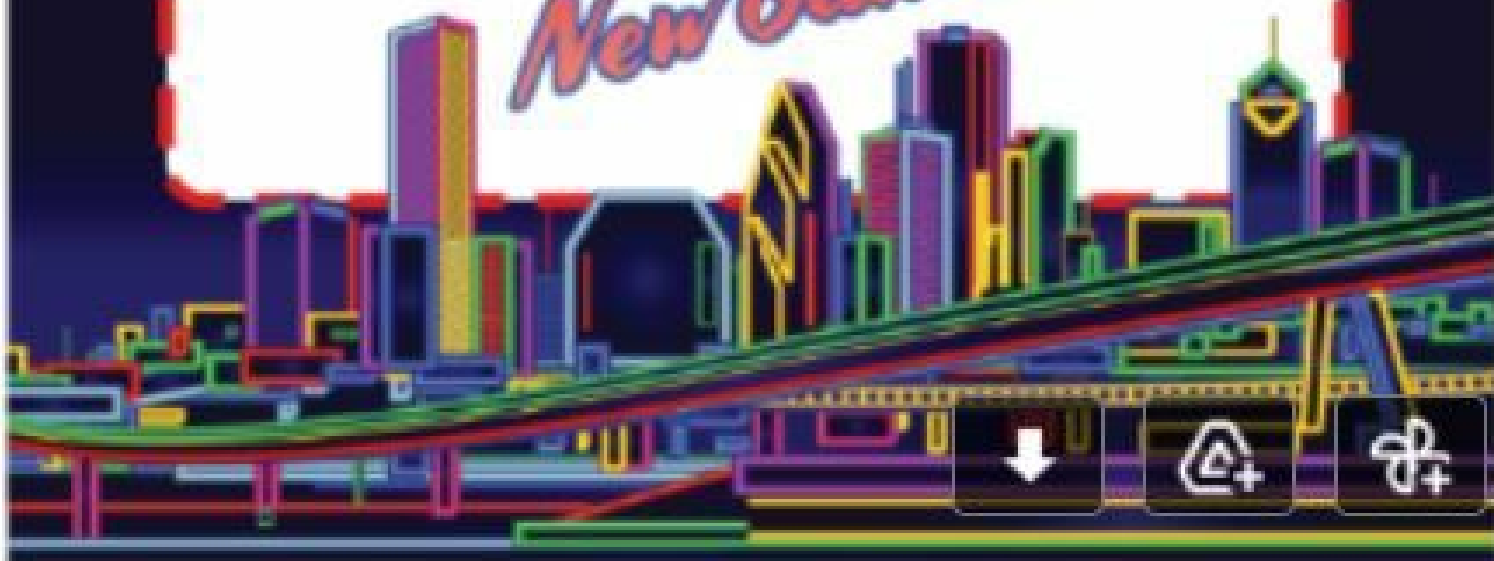
**7 DAYS A WEEK AT 6:05 PM CST**

- ✓ Recent graduates of the 0 to 99 group can play in a game with players of the same ability.
- ✓ Work during the day? Graduates continue to grow skills at a time that's "worker friendly".
- ✓ Safe environment where no sharks are allowed, because the game is limited to 199 mpts.
- ✓ Clubs benefit too and continue to receive payments for their participating players.

*Clubs must be signed up to participate, just like for the 99er NITE CLUB game.*

*Contact Nancy Strohmer for details:  
nastrohmer@yahoo.com*

*New Game in Town*



## ♣ Club News

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](#). 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

Fun, food, and playing the greatest card game, who could ask for anything more? A look at these players' faces tells it all:



Mike



Jabeen



Meynard

Currently, our weekly game is open to pairs whose average masterpoints are 2000 or fewer.

**Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.**  
**Arabia Shriners**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

- \$5 per person - \$6 for upgraded games
- Reservations required
- Proof of vaccinations required
- Masks optional
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- Joyce Ryan & David Henke directors

## Charity Month

April is Charity month and all games (except Apr 13, see below) are upgraded with money being raised for the Houston Foodbank.

To make reservations, click [here](#).

Need a partner?

Try Pianola's [partner finder](#)!

## Royal STaC

District 16 is hosting a special Royal STaC week, April 11-17.

Masterpoint awards for a STaC are normally silver but you will win Gold and Red as well!!

### District 16 Royal STaC

Wed, Apr 13

Points awarded - 25% **Gold**  
25% **Red**  
25% **Silver**  
25% **Black**



Upcoming:

We plan on starting an Open game in the near future. Stay tuned by viewing our website,

[BridgeAcademyOfWestHouston.com](http://BridgeAcademyOfWestHouston.com).

## 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: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" - March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am (Register at the club)**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> - First Saturday F2F game. Potluck lunch at 11:00 (bring your favorite dish). The game will start at 12:00 pm.**

**May 30<sup>th</sup> - Celebration for Sam Khayatt being named District 16 "Teacher of the Year" in conjunction with our Hot Diggity**



**Dog Day game.**

**June 23rd-26<sup>th</sup> 499er Tournament**

**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 Opponents opening 1NT, Doubles, Nuances of 2/1, to name just a few.**

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

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

**Initial offerings:**

**March 21st - Basic 2/1**

**\*\*\* check BCOH website for April dates\*\*\***

**We are bringing back the 0-50 game Tuesday mornings beginning March 22.**

Julie Halperin will give a free lesson from 9:30 to 10:10. The game begins at 10:30. The game fee is \$5.00. We will set up partnerships for those who need it.

Text Julie at 713-857-8004 with questions or concerns. **Lessons are open to all!**

**BEGINNING BRIDGE WITH SAM KHAYATT**

This course will run on BBO and Zoom at 9:00 AM on Saturdays from March 5 to May 28.

The course includes 12 BBO/Zoom lessons, three BBO supervised play sessions, and one technology warm-up. We are also planning (but have not yet confirmed) three F2F supervised play sessions.

Come check out "Bridge over Breakfast"!

Link to flyer: [https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=bcoh&pid=docs\\_BeginningBridge.pdf](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=bcoh&pid=docs_BeginningBridge.pdf)

For more information or to register, please email Sam at [4NoTrumpLessons@gmail.com](mailto:4NoTrumpLessons@gmail.com)

## **CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE**

### **BBO Online Games**

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

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

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

## [CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB](#)

Clear Lake Bridge Club is located at 16614 Sky Lark Road Houston, TX 77062 - Telephone: 281 480-1911. We welcome you all to our Face-to-Face games and our Virtual Club for fun games and masterpoints. The web page address is [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org). Any questions call me (Doug Lilly Newly Elected President at 281-468-7029.

**Visit the website for more information about the club - [Clear Lake Bridge Club](#)**



Breakfast, Bridge & Lesson (BBL) with Dave Glandorf this past Wednesday, March 9th, on Cuebids was terrific.

April BBL promises to be equally illuminating on what we need to remember about bridge play. These lessons are on the second Wednesday of the month.

Remember the BBL schedule is:

- Breakfast at 9 AM
- Lesson starting at 9:20
- Open bridge game at 10 AM

Breakfast tacos, sweetbreads, and fruit will be served



Eight is Enough Team Game on Sunday, March 13th had more than 9 teams. Fun - great teams - and some sweets made the game great. Plan for the next Eight is Enough on the second Sunday of the month.



## **REGULAR GAME SCHEDULE**

### **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



## [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.

Regular games are \$3. We will participate in the Royal STaC on April 12 and 14. Gold, Silver, Red, and Black points will be available. The cost will be \$5.

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 WE HAVE HAD 201  
TABLES ONLINE TO DATE...**

**NEWCOMERS, SO MUCH FUN AND 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**

Tuesday - 3:05 pm - Houston U174 FLM Apollo 0-20 Assisted  
Play

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

**• Discovery - 0-99 MPs**

Tuesday - 2:45 pm - ChooseHouston FLM Discovery

Thursday - 2:45 pm - ChooseHouston FLM Discovery

**We Encourage All of Our Newcomers to 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 RECOMMENDED, BUT OPTIONAL.**
- **YOU MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED; BRING YOUR SHOT RECORD IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD IT VERIFIED BEFORE**
- **HAND SANITIZER THROUGHOUT THE PLAYING AREA**
- **COFFEE AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS**
- **WE USE BRIDGE MATE II BRIDGE PADS**
- **HAND RECORDS AFTER EVERY GAME**
- **NICE BALANCE OF FRIENDLY A, B, & C PLAYERS**
- **ENTRY \$6.00 PER PLAYER; OPEN OR UPGRADED GAMES**

**ERIC WATSON**

**ewat2004@aol.com**

**832 287 9107**

**JACKS CONFERENCE CENTER**

**3232 AUSTIN PARKWAY**

**SUGAR LAND, TX 77479**

**KATY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

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

Regular games are \$3. We will participate in the Royal STaC on April 13 and 14. Gold, Silver, Red, and Black points will be available. The cost will be \$5.

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.

**KT DUPLICATE BRIDGE**

KT Bridge is located at Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

### **KT Duplicate Bridge Tuesday Game**

When: the game will start at 11:30 am.

What: ACBL Sanctioned Game

Please write R. Lee at [relee321@comcast.net](mailto:relee321@comcast.net) for more information.

## **LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

The Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes players and is open for face-to-face games. Games are held every Friday unless a date change is posted, at the April Sound Church, 67 1/2 April Wind Dr. South, Montgomery. Games begin at 10:30 am and are \$8.00. The LCDBC is nonprofit and very supportive of many charities throughout Montgomery County. To play at our club, we require covid vaccination, but masks are optional. Please bring your lunch, as there are refrigerators and microwaves for your use. We provide coffee, iced tea, and sweet and salty snacks.

For further info, contact Penny Grassedonio at 832-361-4577 or [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.

The first Monday of each month before the game, at 11 am, DLM Jeff Kroll teaches a lesson to benefit all levels of players. The March lesson will complete the strategy for IMPs VS Matchpoints, including when to double. The next Lone Star Bridge Club lesson is on April 4. Jeff will be going through the new convention card and explaining a workable system that follows Larry Cohen's teaching. He will explain what the various choices mean and will highlight those conventions endorsed by Larry Cohen. Jeff will also explain even though a 2C opener in standard methods shows 22+ points or within a trick of game, which hands should and should not be opened 2C when they meet this requirement. He will explain other bids that are often gotten wrong and discuss the choices that need to be made when playing new minor forcing, (Editors note: Jeff's videos from the previous month are published in the Unit 174 Events and Classes newsletter published on the 1st of each month.)

We are excited to announce that the next class, Bridge 102 - Competitive Bidding, will start on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, and run for six consecutive Tuesdays from 10 am till noon. The class is open to anyone who is interested in this important aspect of our game. The cost will be \$5 per lesson or \$25 for all six. The book can be found on Amazon for the nominal price of \$12.99 plus tax. In addition to takeout doubles and overcalls, the class will include negative doubles and responsive doubles, as well as when to use opening weak two bids, strong two clubs opening bids, and preemptive opening bids at the three and four-level. If you are interested in signing up for the class, please contact Linda Sutton at: [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com). [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com)

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

Please visit our website by clicking

here: [www.lonestarbridgeclub.org](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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### **End plays at Suit Contracts by Jack Lavigne**

Back in November end plays at a Notrump contract were discussed. End plays at a suit contract add another dimension, the ruff, and sluff.

At a notrump contract declarer develops the play to force an

opponent to lead a particular suit because that is all they have.

Consider the following layout. Spades are trumps and North is on lead:

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ 8	
	♥ 7	
	♦ -	
	♣ AJ3	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ -		♠ -
♥ Q10		♥ J
♦ -		♦ 10
♣ Q97		♣ 852
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ 7	
	♥ 6	
	♦ -	
	♣ K104	

North leads a heart and either opponent can win.

If this were a notrump contract, West could overtake the J and cash a heart. Alternatively, East could win the J and cash a diamond. In either case, the opponents would then be forced to break clubs. South takes three of the last five tricks.

However, playing with spades as trumps, South can claim the last **four** tricks!

If either opponent leads a club, the club loser disappears. If they lead a heart (or a diamond), North can trump and South pitches the 4 of clubs. The A and K of clubs and 7 of spades take the rest, four tricks total.

Let's look at a complete deal.

South opens 1NT and ends up in 6♠.

<u>North</u>		
♠ A1083		
♥ A72		
♦ KQ7		
♣ AJ3		
West		East
♠ 62		♠ J94
♥ Q1085		♥ J94
♦ 532		♦ 10864
♣ Q976		♣ 852
<u>South</u>		
♠ KQ75		
♥ K63		
♦ AJ9		
♣ K104		

West leads the 5 of diamonds and you count your tricks; 4 spades (assuming they break 3-2 or the J is onside), 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs, 11 tricks total.

If you can guess the club Q, you will have made your slam.

With no apparent ruffing value, it appears that the hand could equally be played in notrump.

However, if spades break 3-2, six spades is virtually laydown. Do you see how?

Win the diamond and proceed to draw trumps. Great, they break 3-2.

Now cash the other two diamonds.

The final step is to play the A and K of hearts and then ... lead a heart.

### March 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes Jeff Kroll Sam Khayatt

These are the columns that we believe are the most beneficial to our readers:

1. "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn.
  - a. Problem 2 (p. 38) The 3C bid by Sealy, described as "inventing" a jump shift in a minor, is a standard bid to show a hand of this strength: ♠ AQ2 ♥ AKT765 ♦ A ♣ JT5.
  - b. Problem 6 (p. 40) Get out early when there is a misfit.
2. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 46). Use Roman Key Card 3014, not 1430, when the trump suit is a minor.
3. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 53) In the auction 1♣ - 1♦ - X, the responder's double guarantees 4-4 in the majors. In the auction 1♣ - 2♦ - X, the responder's double does NOT guarantee 4-4 in the majors.



4. "Chalk Talk: Do it right" by Eddie Kantar (p. 55) Consider the order in which you work on your suits. Tempo is often a critical factor in making your contract.
5. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgment - part 10" by Marty Bergen (p.59) In fourth seat, use your judgment instead of strictly adhering to the Rule of 15 (open if the sum of your HCP and number of spades is 15 or more).
6. "Bidding Matters: Relearning bridge - part 24" by Karen Walker (p.60) Improving your hand evaluation will improve your game.
7. "Consults with the Doctor: 4NT after Stayman, Jacoby, and Texas" by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg (p. 65). 4NT by responder after a Jacoby transfer response over 1NT or 2NT is quantitative, never Blackwood.

## Our Favorites

As we are strong adherents of the importance of hand evaluation to become a better player, and limiting the use of conventions. We chose Bergen's and Walker's columns to discuss.

**"Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgment - part 10 by Marty Bergen (p.59)** Bergen evaluates several fourth-seat opening hands:

**1. ♠ 43 ♥KQ108 ♦1097 ♣AQ98**

Even though this hand has only 11 hcp and not great distribution it should be opened 1♣:

1. Honors with honors add value
2. Honors in the longer suits add value
3. 2 ½ quick tricks (KQ = 1 quick trick, AQ = 1 ½ quick tricks)
4. Great intermediates

**2. ♠ KQ5 ♥K ♦K643 ♣AJ953**

Open this 1NT as you won't have a good rebid if you open it 1♣ and partner responds with a likely heart bid. Plan your second bid before making your first bid.

**3. ♠ 2 ♥AQJ97 ♦K1093 ♣1092**

Open this 2♥. You have nice distribution, your high cards are in your long suits, you have great intermediates and you want to block the opponents from bidding spades if possible.

**4. ♠ AK ♥J65 ♦QJ54 ♣AJ98**

Open this 1♣ instead of the normal 1 bid as you plan to bid 1NT on your second bid. Plan your second bid before making your first bid.

**"Bidding Matters: Relearning bridge - part 24" by Karen Walker. (p.60)**

Upgrading your bidding system is useful, but the fastest and most effective way to improve is to learn how to properly evaluate a hand.

Expert players re-evaluate their hands throughout the auction. Fit with partner and honor locations can add to or subtract from the value of a hand.

For example, sometimes a void is worth a lot more than three points and sometimes it's a liability. Depends on what partner holds.

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 We like Larry Cohen's approach of adding as few conventions as possible. Add what you can remember and what makes sense to you. His approach is described here: <https://www.larryco.com/bridge/articles/read-this-first-what-should-we-play>



Thank you to all the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy. **If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174**

**events and activities please contact Karen Nussbaum at [Karenenuss@gmail.com](mailto:Karenenuss@gmail.com).**

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

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