



## Unit 174 Newsletter April 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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  - *May 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes*  
by **Jeff Kroll** and **Sam Khayatt**
  - **Opening 1NT** by **Sam Khayatt** and **Jeff Kroll**

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

I'd like to open my first President's Message by thanking the Board for showing their confidence in me by electing me President for the next year. It's an awesome responsibility and represents an opportunity for the members of the Unit.

We had three new members elected to the Board at the April Election Sectional -- Sarah Springer, Byron Fackenthal, and John Du Bose. I both congratulate them and thank them for their willingness to support the bridge community.

New officers on the Board include Kathy McDougall, Vice President, and Sarah Springer, Secretary.

It's Spring, fast-moving into Summer in Houston. We've had our Regional and one Sectional this year so far. It's no secret that attendance at face-to-face bridge events is down. I don't want anyone to put themselves at undue risk, but I do want to encourage

you to get out and play again when it's safe for you. Our clubs need your support, our unit needs your support at tournaments, and each of us needs contact with other humans in recreational activities. Come on out; we'd love to see you -- especially the beginner and intermediate players.

What you'll see at tournaments is wider table spacing to help minimize the transmission of any germs. Hand sanitizer is typically available at several locations around the playing field. Those who feel most comfortable masked are welcome to wear masks.

Sectionals and Regionals are bending over backward to provide hospitality for the players. And yes, we do require you to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to play in clubs or tournaments -- this is an ACBL requirement that we can't get around.

I encourage you to make an effort to get out and play yourself, and to encourage others -- both returning players and newcomers -- to get to the club or to the next tournament. You'll find that all the rewards are still waiting for you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Thomas Rush  
President, ACBL Unit 174  
[PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com](mailto: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 or advanced a rank. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

**Bryan:** Patsy W Boedeker

**Cypress:** Akana Miakish

**Houston:** Russel Hall, Mrs. Trish P. Chambers, Michael P Lebens,

Gail E. Burbridge, Gerald Kissner, Lee Macpherson

**Katy:** Mrs. Val Grady,

**Woodlands:** Mary D. Johnson

**Sugarland:** Mr. James Zhan

*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: (204 in Unit 174)***

**Elizabeth Bradley, Patsy Lanclos, Alisandra Tieke, Zach Tieke, Edwin Tumlinson**

***Club Master: (192 in Unit 174)***

**Betty Clarke, David Finger, Edward McKee, Nancy Wright, Stuart Wright**

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

**Elizabeth Fischer, Gerald Fritz, Helen Schwisow, Judy Willig**

***Regional Master: (228 in Unit 174)***

**Manju Manek**

***Advanced NABC Master: (32 in Unit 174)***

**Debbie Cole**

***Life Master: (86 in Unit 174)***

**Kathleen Pflueger, Rhonwyn Weissman**

***Bronze Life Master: (253 in Unit 174)***

**Kathryn Kent, Adolph Kubicek**

***Ruby Life Master: (175 in Unit 174)***

**Paddy Fiorino**

***Gold Life Master: (103 in Unit 174)***

**Shih-Ming Yang**

***Sapphire Life Master: (67 in Unit 174)***

**Harold Copeland, Thomas Rush**

***Diamond Life Master: (50 in Unit 174)***

**Dolores Aquino, Allen Wolf**

**Total Unit 174 Members - 2312**

# 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**



**Come for the Wednesday game  
--Play free on Thursday (the next day only)**

**starting May 18**

**at West Houston Bridge Academy**

**Arabia Shrine Center 10510 Harwin**

**[BridgeAcademyofWestHouston.com](http://BridgeAcademyofWestHouston.com)**

## **Game Schedule**

All friendly players are invited to play in the Wednesday Invitational game except for the top 30 masterpoint holders in Unit 174 and professional players.

Thursday is an Open game.

**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

### **Charity**

A charity game will be held on Wednesday, June 1.

### **Club Championship**

Club Championships will be held on Thursday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 29.

### **NAP Month**

June is a North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying month. NAP qualifying games will be held on Wednesday, June 8 and June 22; and Thursday, June 9 and June 30.

### **District 16 STaC**

District 16 Sectional at Club (STaC) games will be held Wednesday, June 15, and Thursday, June 16. Winners receive silver masterpoints, the same as playing in a sectional tournament.

## **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: [minkins@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 22nd/May 24th at 10:30 am (Register at the club)**

**May 7th - First Saturday F2F game. Potluck lunch at 11:00 (bring your favorite dish). The game will start at 12:00 pm.**

**May 30th - Celebration for Sam Khayatt being named District 16 "Teacher of the Year" in conjunction with our Hot Diggity Dog Day game.**

**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 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!**

### 2 Over 1 Classes

Beginning May 11th for 5 weeks 2:30- 4:30 each Wednesday. Transition from Standard American with clear lessons from Julie Halperin (ACBL Best Practices Teacher). The cost is \$75.00 plus \$12 for Audrey Grant's Book.

## 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, TX 77062 - Telephone: 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. Or visit the Virtual Club at BBO: "CHOOSE HOUSTON". The web page address is [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org).

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

May 11 saw the restart of a 199er game. There were 24 players with great enthusiasm. Plans are for this 199er game to continue on Wednesdays.



**May and June's 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. The club has kicked off planning for The Longest Day events.

### **Regular Games**

- Open Pairs - 10 AM Mon/Wed/Fri and 1 PM Saturday and Sunday games at 1 PM
- Open Teams - Sunday 1 PM
- I/N (749 MPs) Games - Tues/Thur 10 AM
- 199er Games - Wednesday 2 PM

### **Special Games and Events**

- Mentor-Mentee - June 15, 1:30 PM (Lunch) and 2 PM game.
- 199er Games - Wednesday 2 PM

### **Breakfast, Lesson, and Bridge Game - April 20**

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

### **Full Schedule of Royal STaC Games in June**



## **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.

Club Championship June 21 and 23  
Royal STac on June 14 and 16

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 WELL  
OVER 200 TABLES ONLINE TO DATE...**

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

**ALSO, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ENHANCING  
OUR FLM PROGRAM SO STAY TUNED!**

**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

- **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.

Club Championship June 22

Royal STac June 15

Regular games are \$3.

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. 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.

The first Monday of each month before the game, at 11 am, DLM Jeff Kroll teaches a lesson to benefit all levels of players. On June 6 at LSBC he will have his third session on the new convention card.

It will include responses to 1 of a major, including:

- Jacoby 2NT (what's partnership agreement and what's not)
- Mixed Raises
- Splinters
- Jacoby 3NT
- Bergen
- Bidding over interference
- Drury choices
- 1NT forcing vs 1NT semi forcing
  - When to bypass a 1S bid when your partner opens a heart and you have 4 spades

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

These are the articles that we believe will help the most people the most:

1. "The Bidding Box," moderated by Josh Donn:
  - a. Problem 6 (p. 40). The Bridge Bulletin auction uses a 1NT second bid by opener to limit the East hand ASAP and avoid a poor diamond contact.
  - b. Problem 8 (p.41). The Moll/Samuel auction shows Samuel upgrading his hand with a double fit and choosing the 4-4 fit over the 5-3 fit.
2. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Hand 1 (p. 42). Most panelists pass partner's 15-17 1NT with a flat eight-count - even at IMPS. The second choice is to look for the notrump game because you're vulnerable, and it is IMPS. Only two panelists try Stayman with their four-card spade suit - but no shortness.
3. "Card Play 101" by Philip Alder (p. 46). Two example deals where the correct play is to discard a loser rather than shorten the long trump hand by trumping at the first opportunity. Wait until you can trump in dummy - sometimes with a high trump.
4. "Parrish the Thought: Leading dummy's singleton" by Adam Parrish (p. 47). Leading dummy's singleton can often provide information on the missing high cards in that suit.

5. "Reasoning with Robert: Returning partner's lead" by Robert Todd (p. 48): giving count when playing partner's suit.
6. "Bidding Basics: Balancing seat doubles" by Larry Cohen (p. 51): balancing in the pass-out seat.
7. "Ask Jerry: Balancing - part 2 by Jerry Helms (p 53). It's usually best not to let the opponents stop at the two-level when they have found a fit and want to stop.
8. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p.55):
  - a. Deal one: play for the layout you need to make your contract
  - b. Deal two: unblocking.
9. "Challenge of the month" (p. 57): unblocking.
10. "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge - part 26" by Karen Walker (p.60). Modern players often overcall at the one level if they accomplish at least two of these objectives:
  - a. Buy the contract
  - b. Interfere with the opponents
  - c. Tell partner what to lead
11. "Test Your Play by Eddie Kantar (p.61), Deal 1: Put in the ♠J at trick one as that's your only chance of getting a trick with the ♠J. In any case, win trick one as the fourth-best ♠2 indicates the spades are splitting 4-4.

## Our Favorites

1. Lesson one			
IMPs. North-South vulnerable.			
♠K J 5 4   ♥9 4 2   ♦J 10 3   ♣Q J 4			
West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	?
	<i>Call</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Award</i>
	Pass	8	100
	2NT	5	80
	2♣	2	70

**"It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Hand 1 (p. 42).**

Most choose to pass, as the game is unlikely opposite this pedestrian eight-count. As an aside, the chance partner has 17 HCP are about half of the chance partner has 15. Not

having an ace also decreases the value of this hand as does its pancake (no shortness) distribution.

Those that push for the game are strongly influenced by it being a possible vulnerable game at IMPS.

Only two tried Stayman with the four-card spade suit. Many players will not use Stayman on a 4333 hand because it is unlikely anything will be ruffed.

Dlr: North	♠ A 7 4		
Vul: Both	♥ Q 10 7 6		
	♦ 9 5 2		
	♣ K 8 7		
♠ 9 8 6 3		♠ 5 2	
♥ 4 3		♥ K J 9 8	
♦ A K Q J 10		♦ 8 7 4 3	
♣ 6 3		♣ 5 4 2	
	♠ K Q J 10		
	♥ A 5 2		
	♦ 6		
	♣ A Q J 10 9		

**“Card Play 101” by Philip Alder (p. 46), Deal 2.**

You are South, playing 4♠. Of course, West leads two high diamonds on the first two leads. If you ruff from the long side of your trump suit, you will lose control of the hand when the missing trumps split 4-2, as they are most likely to do.

You make this hand by letting West score its three diamonds.

You discard your two low hearts on the second and third diamonds.

If West persists with a fourth diamond, you ruff with dummy’s ace. Then you return to your hand with a spade, draw the rest of the trumps and take the rest of the tricks.

<b>2</b>	<i>North (Dummy)</i>
Dlr: South	♠ 8 6 5 3
Vul: Both	♥ Q J 10
IMPs	♦ A K Q
	♣ 6 4 3
	<i>South (You)</i>
	♠ A K Q J 9
	♥ A K
	♦ 5
	♣ A 9 8 5 2

**“Chalk Talk” by Eddie Kantar (p.55), deal 2:**

You are playing 6♠ against silent opponents. West leads the ♦J.

Of course, you must win the opening lead. But the key play is what you decide to play at trick 2.

The correct play is to play your other two high diamonds and discard the

♥AK of hearts from your hand to unblock the suit. Now you can play the ♥Q, ♥J, and ♥T, discarding three club losers. That leaves you with just one losing club – making six.

## Opening 1NT by Sam Khayatt and Jeff Kroll

Opening 1NT has the well-known advantage of describing the hand within a narrow point range (15-17) and distribution (balanced). Armed with this information, responder immediately becomes the captain, the one who controls the auction.

A 1m (minor) opening bid can be made with 11-21 points and can show as few as two cards in the bid suit. Opener and responder must exchange more information before it is clear who will captain the hand.

It is fairly standard to open 1NT with a five-card minor as long as the rest of the hand meets the usual 1NT point range and distribution criteria. It is becoming more and more common to open 1NT with a *six*-card minor under the same conditions.

Another advantage: opening 1NT can dissuade the opponents from bidding their cold game.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand simulation with the following details:

- Hand 11** (top left)
- N Robot** (North): ♠Q9754, ♥J7, ♦984, ♣1064
- W Robot** (West): ♠J, ♥K863, ♦J32, ♣QJ872
- E Robot** (East): ♠A10632, ♥AQ1054, ♦A, ♣93
- S texashen** (South): ♠K8, ♥92, ♦KQ10765, ♣AK5
- Bidding:** N: 1NT, W: Pass, E: Pass, S: 2♥ (highlighted in red)
- Score:** 0-0, 3♥ West



West	North	East	South	
			1NT	<i>Not the usual 1NT shape, but we bid it because:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good six-card diamond suit is useful in NT.</li> <li>• Shows 15 HCP.</li> <li>• Protects Kx on opening lead in NT contract.</li> </ul>
P	2♥			2♥ by North is a transfer to spades.  X by East asks partner to lead a heart. Shows strength and length in the suit, not just a stray honor.
		X		
			P	Our (South's) pass denies three spades. Absent East's interference, we would have bid 2♠ as we are 100% required to take a transfer. North will get another chance to bid, knowing that we do not have three spades.
P	2♠			North bids 2♠ anyway.
		P	P	East is quite happy to defend a spade contract. A double here would be for penalty.
3♥	P	P	P	West expects a nine-card heart fit after East's double of 2♥. A nine-card fit usually produces nine tricks (per the Law of Total Tricks)

Partner (North) leads a club. We win the ♣AK and then it's all over. Declarer wins the third trick, draws trump in two rounds, wins the ♠A, ruffs two spades, and pitches the other two spades on the ♣QJ. Making five. Grossly underbid.

At most tables, EW got to 4♥ making five.

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## From the Editors

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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 and lwarren760@gmail.com

