



Unit 174 Newsletter November 2022



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- Nov 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes by Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt

Please visit the Unit 174 Website (www.acblunit174.org) to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.

[PresidentsMessageAnchor](#)

Unit 174 President's Message

Unit 174 President's Message - November

Greetings Unit 174:

For my first message as President, I start by commending my predecessor, Thomas Rush. Thomas has tirelessly worked to promote bridge in the Houston area and elsewhere, and it is unfortunate that his busy schedule precluded his continuing as our President. The Board of Directors saw fit to elevate me from Vice President to President, and now I am trying hard to fill the shoes left by President Rush. Thank you, Thomas, for all of your hard work over the years. Thank you also to Karen Nussbaum, who stepped up to fill my position as Vice President and Co-Chair for our upcoming Lone Star Regional.

Our Halloween Sectional was a howling success, with lots of costumes and spooky fun at the tables. To look at the photos, click

on this link, Photo Gallery (acblunit174.org). Also, our Unit Secretary, Sarah Springer, penned a poem describing the bewitching of bridge at our tournament:

Houston Unit 174 Bewitches Bridge

The Halloween Sectional now is past
Bridge players face to face at last
Tournament games were held three days
Tricks were treats as were free plays!

Table counts remain sadly low
Pre-Covid numbers rising slow.
No matter that, our show goes on
Bridge enthusiasm is not gone.

Costumes at the games displayed
Included witches, chicken, a barmaid.
Lucy and Cruella grand prize won
All in all, it was much fun!

It is great to see our bridge community;
Face to face brings opportunity
To see old friends and make new ones
No matter what our bridge outcomes.

Ladies of the Nile provided food:
Sandwiches which were so good.
Sunday's BBQ was delicious
Magical maybe -are you suspicious?

Joe Quinn gave talk on total tricks
Gary King treated with winning tips.
The tournament was such a blast
Too bad it ended so very fast.

All you bridge players out there
Be sure to mark your calendar with care—
Don't miss the upcoming Lone Star
Houston's best tournament by far!

Get out of pajamas and away from the screen
Come out to the Regional—see and be seen!
Lots of fun and excitement in store,
Pairs, side games, Swiss teams and more!

We on the Board are working hard to prepare for the upcoming Lone Star Regional, which will be held in Houston at the Westchase Marriott from January 23, 2023, to January 29, 2023. Please check out the unit web page to see our amazing flyer highlighting the various events at our Regional. We are getting flyers out to the area clubs and expanding to neighboring states, hoping for a pre-pandemic turnout.

Online bridge has been our lifesaver and mainstay since the advent of Covid, but with most of us fully vaccinated and boosted and the threat level low, it is time to consider coming out for face-to-face games. The ACBL has enhanced points by 20% for face-to-face games as well, so if you are able, please consider coming to your favorite clubs in person and definitely come to the Regional in January. ACBL will likely reconsider our Covid protocols following the National tournament in Phoenix, so stay tuned.

We will be offering a Director's Course as well as a Best Practices Teacher's course the weekend before the tournament begins, so if you want to learn how to direct and how to teach, \$50 and your weekend will get you there. (There is an additional \$25 fee for certification for those who wish to teach.)

There will be tons of gold points and red points to be had at the Regional. We will have gold rush pairs, Swiss teams, Mini-Soloway knockout games, games for Future Life Masters (FLM), and even a special 0-5 game on Friday of the tournament for a group of middle

schoolers!

Our nominations committee is working to present a slate of candidates for our April election, which will be held in conjunction with the spring sectional tournament. If you are interested in running for the Unit Board or you wish to nominate someone, please contact the Chair of this Committee, Dolores Aquino, at dcaquino2246@yahoo.com, and let her know.

Unit Board members plan and run our sectional tournaments, manage our budget, support our clubs, and enjoy their work to enhance everyone's bridge experience.

I am writing this message from Gulf Shores, Alabama. One of my great bridge friends invited me and several others from our bridge community to share a fabulous few days at her beach rental. This wonderful opportunity would never have occurred without face-to-face bridge. I have made so many great friendships with people I have met at bridge clubs and tournaments. While writing, I am sitting looking out at the waves crashing on the sugar white beach while pelicans fly in squadrons in search of their next meal in the waves, and I am dreaming of a huge pre-Covid turnout for our Regional! Come out and join the fun!

Kathy McDougall, Unit 174 Board President
katmac432@hotmail.com



New Members, Rank Advancements, and Member News



NEW MEMBERS

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who advanced a rank as of the 6th day of the previous month. Below are listed those players who either joined our Unit. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

New Members: Stephan M Kaufman, Margret Kerstann, Bjorn Mossberg, Audrey C Vinyard

Transfers In: Mrs Myrtle P Dean, Mrs Katherine Fouts, Dr Paul M Horvitz, Al Crump Madison, Teresa J McNeil, Jack R Mills, Mrs Mae V O'Neil, Lawrence Tetzlaff, Mrs Roberta Tetzlaff

Welcome!

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

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



Junior Master

Sharon Degnan, Dilip Dharia,
Ahmet Kalkan, Aksana Miakish,
Therese Perez,
Sally Ward

Club Master

Beryl Booker, Robert Domsalla, Janet Ellettee, Niels Kastrup, Noella Lambert,
Dale Royalty, Lawrence Tetzlaff, Joseph Weiss

Sectional Master

William Belford, Robert Boyd, Jeanne Goff, Antoun Henri, Carter Nash,
Kathleen Naylor, Meynard Nussbaum, Corinne Smith-Sloan, Edwin Tumlinson

Regional Master

Jerry Deutser, Donna Scott, Sara White

NABC Master

Joseph Rogers

Advanced NABC Master

Paul Shack

Life Master

Ben Hernandez, Lynn Hershey, Charles Woody

Bronze Life Master

Shyamal Bhattacharya, Patricia Dunnell, Terry McGarrity, Ann Wales

Silver Life Master

Laura Chandler

Ruby Life Master

Steven Gordon, Margie Patterson, Aruna Sane

Gold Life Master

Judy Gibson, Peter Wahl

Sapphire Life Master

Chris Curran, Sam Dodson, David Dyer, Ed Harper, Clif Rice

!!! Congratulations !!!



The Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional

January 23rd – 29th, 2023



ACBL has increased awards by 20%!

Houston Marriott Westchase



2900 Briarpark Drive
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 978-7400

Free parking

Room Rate: \$129

[Book your group rate for ACBL](#)

Reservation codes:

ACBACBF – King ACBACBA – 2 Queens

Cutoff Date Jan 6th, 2023 or until block filled

FLM Day (Future Life Masters) – Tuesday
1 Free Play (0-99 MPs)

Tournament Chairs

Kathy McDougall
(832) 876-9516
katmac432@hotmail.com

Partnership

Ken Hudson
(713) 204-5505
kghudson@comcast.net

Karen Nussbaum
(832) 524-5233
karenenuss@gmail.com

Event Naming

John Herzer
(737) 287-7888
johncherzer@gmail.com

Director's Course

Saturday, Jan. 21st.....12:00 – 6:00
Sunday, Jan. 22nd.....10:00 – 3:00
Instructor – **Tom Marsh** Registration fee - \$50
For information or to register contact:
Karen Nussbaum @ 832-524-5233 or karenenuss@gmail.com

Best Practices Teacher Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 21st & 22nd.....9:00 – 3:00
Instructor – **Patty Tucker** Registration fee - \$50
Certification fee (Optional) - \$25
For information or to register contact:
Karen Nussbaum @ 832-524-5233 or karenenuss@gmail.com

Daily Start Times

Monday.....1:00 & 6:30
Tuesday – Saturday.....10:00 & 2:30 & 7:00
Sunday.....9:30 & TBA

Complementary ACBL entry labels

Cashless Tournament (credit cards only) - Table Fees:
Mon.-Fri. \$15/Session Saturday - \$16 (NAP)
Sun - \$16 (Lunch Included w/2 sessions)
Add'l. \$4 for lapsed members



Great Line-up of Guest Speakers - To Be Announced

Covid Safety - See Unit 174 (acblunit174.org) for latest guidelines

Expert Panel!!
 Saturday, 5-6 pm
 Snacks & Drinks

**Early Registration
 is Encouraged!**

**Sunday lunch
 provided (with
 2 Sessions)**

Open Pairs

(Double Session unless noted)

Monday – January 23

Education Fund Pairs *(Single Session)*.....1:00 & 6:30

Tue/Thu/Sat – January 24/26/28

A/X Pairs.....10:00 & 2:30
 Mid-flight Pairs.....10:00 & 2:30
 Morning Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....10:00
 Afternoon Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....2:30
 Evening Side Pair Series *(Single Session)*.....7:00

Wed/Fri - January 25/27

A/X/Y Pairs.....10:00 & 2:30
 Morning Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....10:00
 Afternoon Side Pair Series *(Single session)*.....2:30
 Evening Side Pair Series *(Single Session)*.....7:00

Sunday – January 29

A/X/Y Pairs..... 9:30 & TBA
 Side Pairs *(Single Session)*..... 9:30 & TBA

Team Games

(Double Session)

Monday – January 23

Bracketed Teams..... 1:00 & 6:30

Tuesday – Saturday – January 24-28

Bracketed Teams..... 10:00 & 2:30

Tue/Wed - January 24/25

Handicapped Swiss *(2 sessions)*.....7:00

Thu/Fri – January 26/27

Handicapped Swiss *(2 sessions)*.....7:00

Sunday – January 29

A/X Swiss Teams.....9:30 & TBA
 Bracketed Teams.....9:30 & TBA

FLM / I/N / 299^{er}

Monday.....1:00 & 6:30
 Tuesday – Saturday.....10:00 & 2:30
 Sunday.....9:30 & TBA

0-750 Gold Rush Schedule

(Double Session)

Monday1:00 & 6:30
 Tuesday - Saturday.....10:00 & 2:30

Two Mini-Soloway KO Opportunities

For top bracket equivalent *(in lieu of above)*
 Tue/Wed & Thu/Fri – 10:00 & 2:30
 Conditions of Contest – see online flyer (page 3)
(early registration appreciated)

Stratification & Flighting

A/X Pairs.....A: 5000+ X: 0-5000
 A/X/Y Pairs.....A: 5000+ X: 2000-5000 Y: 0-2000
 Mid-flight Pairs.....B: 1500-3000 Y: 0-1500
 Gold Rush Pairs.....C: 300-750 Z: 0-300
 Side Pairs.....A: 3000+ B: 750-3000 C: 0-750
 299^{er}.....A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100
 99^{er}.....A: 50-100 B: 20-50 C: 0-20
 49^{er}.....A:20-50 B: 5-20 C: 0-5
 Novice 20.....A: 10-20 B: B:5-10 C: 0-5
Strats may vary director's discretion

Bracketed Teams.....Grouped by average MP
 A/X Swiss.....A: 4000+ X: 0-4000
 Sunday Bracketed Teams.....B: 0-3000
(No player with >3000 MPs)
Team or Pair average used for all stratified events

Please be Scent-sitive

No cologne No Perfume No offensive odors



Lone Star Regional

January 23 – 29, 2023



What is a Mini-Soloway KO?

The Mini-Soloway KO is a four-session two-day event with all teams guaranteed two sessions of play on the first day.

- Day 1 is run as a 2-session Swiss/Round Robin depending on the number of teams entered in this event.
- The top 4 teams will advance to the KO phase on Day 2 for the semi-finals and finals.
- The top qualifier will select either the 3rd or 4th place team as their semi-final opponent for the morning session. Play continues in the afternoon to determine 1st and 2nd as well as 3rd and 4th place.

LSR 2023 – Mini-Soloway KO Conditions of Contest

The field will consist of the top bracket equivalent of the regular Bracketed Swiss Events beginning on Tuesday and Thursday. Thus, any team with a masterpoint (MP) average of 12,000 or higher will fall into this bracket and automatically placed into the Mini Soloway.

Teams with a MP average of 12,000 or higher may not play in the Bracketed Swiss on Tuesday or Thursday.

Teams with less than an average of 12,000 may request to participate in the Mini-Soloway KO if they so wish.

The Director-in-Charge may create bracketing for this event if necessary based on MP average. Teams competing understand that this is a 2-day 4-session event.

As only the top 4 teams of a Mini-Soloway bracket will move forward to day 2 of this event, all other teams will be eligible to play in the Swiss Team games the 2nd day.

Mini-Soloway KO Schedule

Our Mini-Soloway KOs will be held twice:

Tuesday-Wednesday (10am & 2:30pm) and Thursday-Friday (10am & 2:30pm)

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. 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

Apple I (Mondays at Tracy Gee Community Center) will hold the annual holiday lunch on Monday, December 19th. The lunch will be catered by Demeris. Reservations are required. The club will be closed Monday, December 26th.

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. All games at \$3/person.

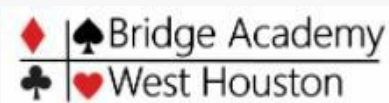
For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson
sisbjohnson@gmail.com - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer
sandiferdb@gmail.com - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information at appledbcs.com.

Current requirements: All players must furnish proof of vaccination. You may bring your vaccination card to the game or send a photo of it to Susan or Brigitte. 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

299'er Game

The 299'er game has been fun and successful for this group. We would like it to grow even larger. You are cordially invited to join us every Thursday at 10:30.

Mini-lesson

Before each Wednesday game there is a mini-lesson starting around 10:00 taught by Joe Quinn.

Holiday Parties



Holiday Parties *Wed & Thu - Dec 14 & 15*



Game Schedule

Wednesdays – Invitational
Thursdays – Open & 299'er
10:30 a.m.
Arabia Shriners
10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- Jennifer Breihan, Susan Kaplan and Catherine Brown directors

Play Wednesday, Play Free on Thursday

This popular feature has been extended indefinitely.

Game Calendar

Wed – Nov 23	Club Championship	Wed – Dec 7	Houston STaC
Thu – Nov 24	Thanksgiving No Game	Thu – Dec 8	Houston STaC
Wed – Nov 30	Club Championship	Wed – Dec 14	GNT Fund Raiser & Holiday Party
Thu – Dec 1	Charity	Thu – Dec 15	GNT Fund Raiser & Holiday Party

Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 martinsens@comcast.net or Joyce Ryan at (713) 301-0624 JoyceRyanBridge@gmail.com

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON (BCOH)

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

BCOH Online Choose Houston

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

BCOH Open Games (Face 2 Face)

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

Monday: 11:55am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30am

SAVE THE DATES:

Swiss Teams – 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. (Register at the club)

Mentor/Mentee F2F – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Sign up at the club or contact **Judy Cupps** with any questions @ judy_n_al@yahoo.com or call 713-320-5592.

Saturday F2F – Please check BCOH website for details for our monthly games

Our next 499er/NLM Tournament on December 1-4, 2022

Holiday Party- Saturday December 10th

Come celebrate the holidays with your BCOH friends. Bring your favorite dish to share. Lunch will begin at 11:00 with open game to follow at noon.

TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher and enjoy a free lesson from 9:30 to 10:10. Game to follow begins at 10:30. We will set up partnerships for those who need it.

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

CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE

BBO Online Games

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

Playing online? CHOOSE HOUSTON!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 AM	<i>Second Saturday only; hand review after the game →</i>					FLM 0-20	
9:50 AM	199er						
10:00 AM	499er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM						199er	
12:00 PM						Open	
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM		FLM 0-50					
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh for details</i>						
7:00 PM	Mentor	Open		Open			

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

[CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY DBC](#)

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

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

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

Clear Lake Bridge Club

Clear Lake Bridge Club has it going on in December! Our Eight is Enough team game is scheduled for Sun, Dec 11 at 1:00 pm. And, we will have our Holiday Party on Fri, Dec 16. On Dec 21, we will have our monthly Mentor/Mentee game at 2:00 pm. And, of course, we have games of one kind or another every day.

You should make reservations for either Eight is Enough or the Mentor/Mentee games. With regard to the other games, just show up with a partner, and you will be able to play, although Monday afternoons are 299 and Wednesday afternoons are 199. We also have 749 games on Tues and Thurs mornings and an open game every day but Thursday.

Pls, take a look at our website, which is updated regularly.

<https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/>



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

Visit our website!

www.flm174.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

FLM 199er Sundays

NOV 20th at BCOH

DEC 18th at Shriners

Game time: 2:00 PM

Singletons welcome! Partners provided!

\$5.00 18-Board Game, Snacks & Fun

Covid Vax required

GAMES

Face-to-Face

199er Games

- Clear Lake Bridge Club WEDNESDAYS at 2:00 PM

299er Games

- Clear Lake Bridge Club MONDAYS at 2:00 PM

NEW

- **Bridge Academy of West Houston THURSDAYS at 10:30**

Online at BBO

0-20er FLM 2nd Saturdays at 9:00 AM

0-49er FLM Tuesdays at 3:05 PM

0-49er D16 Mondays at 4:00 PM

0-300 CHOOSE HOUSTON Weekdays at 10 AM

FORT BEND DBC Sugar Land

FORT BEND DUPLICATE BRIDGE - SUGAR LAND

OPEN GAME TUESDAYS AT 9 AM

JACKS CONFERENCE CENTER

3232 AUSTIN PARKWAY

SUGAR LAND, TX 77479

- **FREE COFFEE AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS**
- **WE USE BRIDGE MATE II BRIDGE PADS**
- **AT LEAST 3 UPGRADED GAMES EVERY MONTH**

- **HAND RECORDS AFTER EVERY GAME**
- **NICE BALANCE OF FRIENDLY A, B, & C PLAYERS**
- **OPEN AND UPGRADED GAMES ARE ONLY \$6.00**
- **HAND SANITIZER AND MASKS ARE AVAILABLE**
- **AT LEAST 9 TABLES**

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

JOHN ERIC WATSON
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107

KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club has added a second game on Thursday starting September 8!

Both games (Wednesday and Thursday) start at 10:00 am at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

On Thursday morning, Bill Riley will be giving a short 20-30 minute presentation on various topics, conventions, etc., starting at 9:20 AM. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

For information, contact Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or jrsimmons2102@gmail.com. Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or ichibanbill@yahoo.com. Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281)348-2570

LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Greetings from Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club

We have been making some changes at LCDBC and want to bring you up to date.

Starting October 2022, the fee for playing will be dropped to \$5.00.

We would like to invite you to come play with us every Friday. We play at the April Sound Church Fellowship Building, the one closest to Hwy 105. The address is 67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S, Montgomery, TX 77356. The church parking lot is accessible directly off Hwy 105.

We begin playing at 10:30 am. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea for those who want it. Bring your lunch, as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

Please invite your bridge friends to join us. We are a very friendly group of bridge players and will make everyone feel welcome.

No Partner?? No worries! Call Gerry Earnest at 936-447-6958 for a partner.
Looking forward to seeing you!

Penny Grassedonio

Club Manager
832-361-4577
czthdaypjg@gmail.com.

LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul United Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our website, <https://lonestarbridgeclub.org>.

Games are on Mondays at Noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am. All games are stratified. Proof of Covid vaccination is required, and masks are optional. We provide Coffee, bottled water, and only individually wrapped snacks.

Our games are always \$5.00.

In November, on the first Monday, there will be a free lesson from Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll. This class will focus on the 1NT section of the new Convention card.

Starts at 11:00.

It will cover:

- Stayman (there are only 3 correct responses to a Stayman bid)
- Garbage Stayman
- Crawling Stayman
- Smolen
- Transfers (it is not an option not to accept the transfer)
- When the opponents interfere with your notrump opener
 - standard bidding
 - Lebensohl

Please join us for FREE Pizza on the first Thursday of every month!

If you would like to play and need a partner, please contact our partnership chairperson, Sandra Maalouf, at 936-597-8756, or smaalouf@icloud.com.

For more information, contact Linda Sutton at lindasutton212@gmail.com.

Please visit our website by clicking here: www.lonestarbridgeclub.org.

PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. For further info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com.

SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE CLUB

Games are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:30.

Location: Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road,

Houston, Texas. Located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Wirt Road and Westview in the Spring Branch area.

Regular games are \$1/person. Charity games, STaC, and other special games. Totally non-profit in accordance with County rules.

Manager & Director

Judith Hoffing

713-467-5805

hoffing2007@comcast.net

STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and are **now \$5** per person. **Masks are no longer required or encouraged**, and you must have a partner. For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com.



Guest Editors

November 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll

Sam Khayatt

Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

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

1. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn (p. 42-44), Problem 5. Why making and leaving in a double of 2♠ would have resulted in a higher score for both participants.
2. "Parrish the Thought: Declarer isn't drawing trump" by Adam Parrish (p. 51). A good declarer usually pulls trumps ASAP. When they don't, it's because they have a good reason not to. Often that reason is that they want/need to trump in the short trump hand. When on defense you should lead trumps to prevent declarer from doing this.
3. "Reasoning with Robert: Bidding opposite a passed hand" by Robert S. Todd (p. 52) It is sometimes correct to open a good four-card major in third seat. It is often right to preempt at the two-level with a good five-card suit in third seat.
4. "Startup Bridge: Redoubles: A seldom-used tool" by Lynn Berg (p.53). When and when not to redouble.
5. "Lessons Learned: Leading trumps" by Michael Berkowitz (p.54). When playing in his or her second suit, declarer will usually be looking to cross ruff. Lead a trump.
6. "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge – part 32" by Karen Walker (p. 64). Four similar-sounding auctions where partner's double has various meanings.
7. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p 65).
 - Deal 1: End play East and avoid a likely losing finesse.
 - Deal 2: Try to set up a long suit and finesse only as a last resort.

Our Favorites

"Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge – part 32" by Karen Walker (p. 64).

Walker presents several auctions, each of which involves the red suit(s) and a double. Then she describes what the double is showing in each. Auctions 3 and 4 are interesting to review; all are worth a discussion with your partner.

3	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	1NT	Dbl		

Partner's initial pass does not deny an opener. It just means that partner did not have a bid over 1♦. Maybe partner's suit is diamonds. Maybe partner cannot double

because partner does not have three-card support for all the unbid suits. This double is a takeout, something like ♠A976 ♥4 ♦KQ42 ♣AJ83.

If righty passes (instead of bidding 1♥), it is important for you to balance with 8+ points. Otherwise, opener buys the contract for 1♦ and partner might have had an opening hand.

4	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
	2♥	Dbl		

If partner is not strong enough to make a takeout double of 1♥, he does not suddenly become strong enough to make a takeout double of 2♥. This double is for penalty,

perhaps holding something like ♠8 ♥KJT73 ♦AQ4 ♣KQT7.

"Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p 65)

1

Dir: North ♠ 5432
 Vul: E-W ♥ 75
 IMPs ♦ KQ102
 ♣ Q43

♠ AKQJ96
 ♥ J4
 ♦ A
 ♣ A852

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Dbl
3♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
(1) Weak			

Opening lead: ♥10.
 East wins the first two tricks with the queen and ace and exits with the ♠7, West discarding a diamond. Plan the play.

If we do not pay attention to the auction, we would pull trump, cash ♣A and lead a small club to the ♣Q, hoping West has the ♣K. This line of play is unlikely to work since there are not enough points in the deck for West to have the ♣K. East opened holding about 13 points and NS have 26. It is almost certain that East has the ♣K. (If West does have the ♣K, make sure it's from the same deck.)

So, the way to play this is to pull another round of trump, leaving the last one in East's hand. Then cash the ♦A and lead a low spade to East's T. We are giving East a trick to which he is not entitled, but by doing so, we are also end-playing him. After winning the T, he will be forced to lead something useful for us:

- A club lead makes our ♣Q good; we can pitch losing clubs on the ♦KQ.
- A diamond lead gives us three diamond tricks for discards.
- A heart will be trumped in dummy, giving us a ruff and a sluff and access to the ♦KQ for discards.

A layout like this will give our plan a reasonable chance of success:

♠ —		♠ 1087
♥ 10982	N	♥ AKQ63
♦ J87653	W + E	♦ 94
♣ 1096	S	♣ KJ7
		♠ AKQJ96
		♥ J4
		♦ A
		♣ A852

2

Dir: South ♠ 84
 Vul: N-S ♥ AK642
 IMPs ♦ J93
 ♣ 984

♠ AQJ10
 ♥ —
 ♦ AKQ10652
 ♣ AK

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♣Q.
 Plan the play ... carefully.

This is a "take all your chances" deal. A lazy declarer will live or die by the spade finesse. A careful declarer will see if the fifth heart sets up. The careful declarer will also manage the entries. The three entries to the dummy are diamonds. So, the ♦2 cannot be wasted as it is needed to get to the ♦3, the third entry.

If the fifth heart cannot be set up, then declarer will fall back on the spade finesse knowing he took all his chances.

Declarer is hoping for a layout like the one at right.

♠ K73		♠ 9652
♥ J975	N	♥ Q1083
♦ 84	W + E	♦ 7
♣ QJ106	S	♣ 7532
		♠ 84
		♥ AK642
		♦ J93
		♣ 984
		♠ AQJ10
		♥ —
		♦ AKQ10652
		♣ AK

Don't Blindly Guess; Let the Opponents Help
Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

Don't Blindly Guess; Let the Opponents Help

		N Robot ♠KQ965 ♥K752 ♦83 ♣K9	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH			Pass	1♣	1♦	Dbl	2♣	2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																				
		Pass	1♣																				
1♦	Dbl	2♣	2♥																				
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass																				
Pass																							
W Robot ♠J1032 ♥84 ♦AK1065 ♣73		E Robot ♠84 ♥AJ3 ♦Q742 ♣Q1042																					
4♥ South NS: 0 EW: 0		S texashen ♠A7 ♥Q1096 ♦J9 ♣AJ865																					

West	North	East	South	Comments
		P	1♣	
1♦	X	2♣	2♥	North's X: 6+ points and 4+ cards in both majors. 2♣ by a passed hand: limit raise (10-12) in diamonds. 2♥: 12-15 points, probably only 4 hearts. With 5+, would have opened hearts unless clubs were longer.
P	4♥			P: Had North not shown four spades with the X, West might have explored for a 4-4 spade fit 4♥ might make: nice spade suit, heart fit and honor in partner's first suit.

The Play

West cashes the ♦AK of diamonds and exits with the ♣7. I put in the ♣9 and West plays low.

I have already lost two diamond tricks and am pretty sure that I will lose the ace of trump. That means I can't make the hand if I also lose the jack of trump.

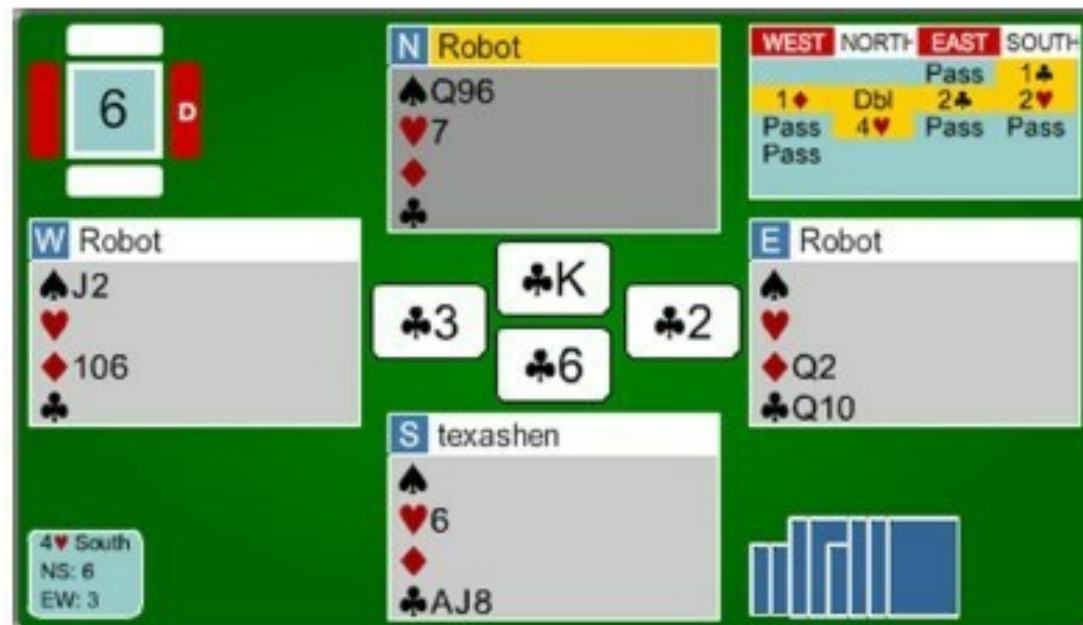
With five hearts out, the percentage play is to finesse for the ♥J rather than try to drop it. I have the intermediates to finesse either way, but there is no strong case to finesse a particular opponent.

So rather than guess, I will try to get the opponents to help me. No sense leading low from the board as East will surely play low. I must get to my hand. So, I play a small spade to the ace.

Now I lead the ♥10 from my hand. West cannot see that I also hold the ♥9, so I hope he will cover with the ♥J if he has it. When West does not play the ♥J, I assume that he does not hold it and I go up with dummy's the ♥K. East wins the ♥A and returns a spade.

I win the spade in dummy and continue with my plan, now based on the assumption that East holds the ♥J. I play a low heart and when East plays low I insert the ♥9 and I am home. I pull the last trump, cash the ♣King, and claim. After a spade is ruffed, the dummy is good.

(Pretty sure they'll let me save my ace of clubs for the next deal.)



From the Editors



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 Kathy McDougall, Unit 174 Board President

katmac432@hotmail.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.

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