



Unit 174 Newsletter October 2022



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

[PresidentsMessageAnchor](#)



President's Message

President's Message - October

Happy October, everyone! There are four main topics in this President's Letter.

First, congratulations to Bridge Club of Houston for having a successful 499er Sectional October 6 - 9. 53.5 total tables were in play, over 100 Silver points were awarded to 70 players, and everyone I've heard from considered it a big success. The big winners were Hua and Kyo (Kyle) Chen, a local father-son pair who picked up 7.2 silver points in the tournament. Their successes included three session first-place wins in pair games and a tie for first in the Sunday team game. All the awards mentioned will be increased by 20% as part of the ACBL face-to-face tournament masterpoint promotion running through most of May 2023.

Oh – Kyle is only eight years old, and he can play! Perhaps you have a child or grandchild you can introduce to this fabulous game?

For complete information on the tournament (including photos of the winners), please see the BCoH website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh/>.

Second, you too can win Silver Masterpoints at the upcoming Unit 174 Hallowe'en Sectional, October 28 - 30. All manner of pair and team events will be held; we've got two great guest speakers in, Joe Quinn and Gary King; 299er and FLM 0-50 events are scheduled, and lunch (catered again by Demeris BBQ) is included with your card fees on Sunday. Please see the flyer with details linked to the Unit web page. Clif and Sarah (Tournament Chairs) have put a lot of work into this event, come out and support them – and see your friends while winning Silver Masterpoints! Overall awards will be boosted 20% above normal as part of the ACBL face-to-face tournament promotion, too!

Third, your Unit needs a bit of help to help us do what you expect us to do well. It's the time of year when we need a half-dozen people to stand up to run for the three open Unit Board positions. The election will be in April at our Election Sectional. Dolores Aquino is the head of our Nominating Committee; please shoot her an email at dcaquino2246@yahoo.com to let her know you're interested in running (or to nominate someone you feel would be a good Board member). Board members help plan and run our sectional events and annual regional, manage the budgeting process, support the clubs, and generally have a good time by doing what it takes to enable you to have fun playing bridge.

Also important is this newsletter, and our current editors are stepping down after having done a great job. If you have some familiarity with working with words on a computer and a desire to help out the Unit and your fellow members, please contact me (PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.com) or the current newsletter editors (unit174newsletter@gmail.com) for more details about what's required. We do need someone willing to put out this once-a-month newsletter to get out the good news about what's happening in the Unit!

Fourth, as a special bonus 'thing' – don't forget two Unit STaC events (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) in our Unit coming up the week of November 7-13 and December 5 - 11. Also, the special Royal STaC, where ¼ of the points will be Gold, Red, Silver, and Black, is a good chance to pick up a few gold points, or perhaps the last ones you need for your Life Master rank? That Royal STaC is November 14-20. STaC events are held in face-to-face play at your local clubs, so contact them to make sure they will be participating. Lock in your best partners, and come out and play!

President, ACBL Unit 174
PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com



Unit 174 Board of Directors designated Houston Food Bank as its 2023 Charity Organization

Houston Food Bank Mission: Food for better lives. More than 1.1 million people in the 18 southeast Texas counties served by Houston Food Bank are considered food insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to enough nutritious food to fuel a healthy life. In order to address this issue, the Houston Food Bank distributes food and other essentials to those in need through a network of 1,500 community partners. In addition, they also provide programs and services aimed at helping families achieve long-term stability including nutrition education, job training, health management, and help in securing state-funded assistance.

Nancy Strohmer
Unit 174 Charity Chair



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: Hua Chen, Kyo Chen, Jackie C

McRae

Transfers In: Paul D Cragin, Mr. Norman H Hamady, Mrs. Wanda R Hughes, Ahmet Kalkan, Linda Lewis, Joyce Long

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

Hua Chen, Kyo Chen, Patricia Leavesley, Arlene Phillips, Jeffrey Samuels, Jan Watson

Club Master

Judith Cobb, Sherry Taylor

Sectional Master

Mike Holy, Traci McCaskill, Cheryl Walters

Life Master

Zo Granberry, Phyllis Maier

Bronze Life Master

Zo Granberry

Silver Life Master

Luther Hampton

Gold Life Master

Courtney Coffman

!!! Congratulations !!!

174 Unit News



Note: ACBL has increased awards by 20%

ARABIA SHRINE CENTER
 10510 Harwin Dr.
 Houston, TX 77036

Stratification
Stratified Open Pairs
 A: 3000+ X: 750-3000 Y: 0-750
Stratified 299'r Pairs
 B: 200-300 C: 100-200 D: 0-100
Bracketed Swiss
 Brackets of 7-9 teams

Table Fees per Session
 Thur, Fri & Sat: \$12 (\$4 more for lapsed members)
 Sunday: \$14 (Sunday lunch included)
 Table Fees are cashless (credit card only)

TownePlace Suites by Marriott
 10610 Westpark Dr, Houston TX 77042
 (713) 266-2210 - Room Rate: \$69 king or \$109 2 bdr studio
Springhill Suites by Marriott
 5851 Rogerdale Rd, Houston, TX 77072
 (832) 300-0200 - Room Rate: \$89 king or \$99 double
 (cutoff date Oct 10 - after that prices go up)

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

Playing Schedule (single session UNO)
Friday & Saturday, Oct 28th & 29th
 Ghostly Ghouls Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10 & 2:30
 Hayride Haunting 299'r Pairs 10 & 2:30
 Spooky Side Game 10 & 2:30
 FLM 0-50 Gemini Pairs 10 & 2:30
 Bracketed Swiss (2 sessions) 10 & 2:30
Sunday, Oct 30th
 Ghostly Ghouls Open Pairs 10 & TBD
 Hayride Haunting 299'r Pairs 10 & TBD
 Bracketed Swiss (2 sessions) 10 & TBD

Please Be Scent-sitive
 No Cologne
 No Perfume
 No Offensive Odors

Tournament Chairs
Clif Rice Sarah Springer
 clif709@aol.com SarahSpringerBridge@gmail.com
 (832) 541-7067 (281) 904-5791
Hospitality Chair Partnership Chair
Janice Hardcastle Linda Drake
 janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com linkay0@yahoo.com
 (832) 643-1704 (608) 235-1235
I/N - FLM Chairs
I/N Chair FLM Chair
Betty Westbrook Mary Ellen Vail
 bwestbrooktx@gmail.com mevail48@gmail.com
 (713) 851-0026 (678) 910-6402



Guest Speakers - 2:00 Friday & Saturday
Friday: Joe Quinn Saturday: **Gary King**
"The Trauma of Total Tricks on Halloween" **"Tricks & Treats"**

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

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.

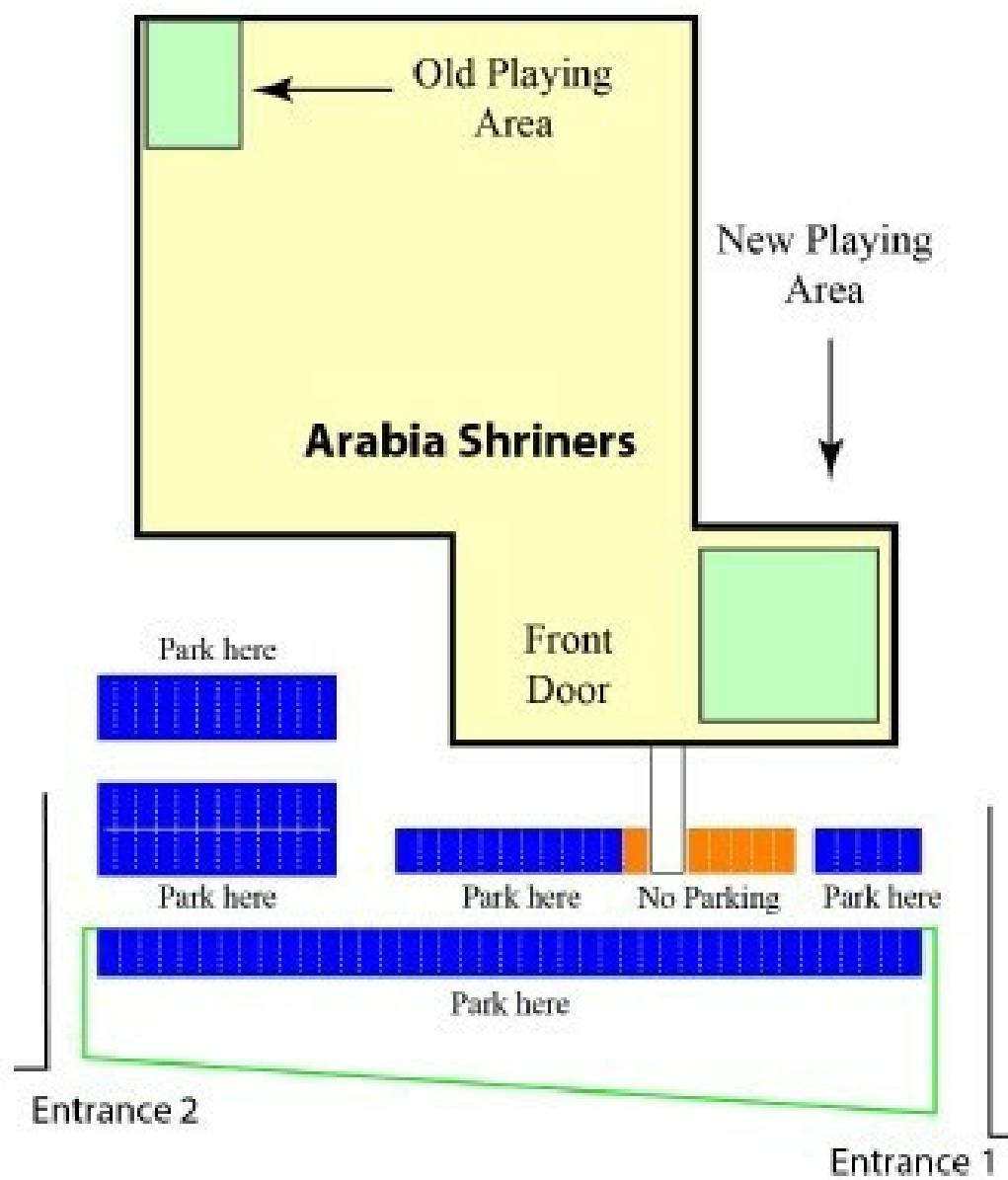
Current requirements: All players must furnish proof of vaccination. You may bring your vaccination card to the game or send a photo of it to Susan or Brigitte. Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are permitted. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You're welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.



BRIDGE ACADEMY OF WEST HOUSTON

We have moved

Same great facility but a larger room. The entrance is at the front. Kindly do not park in the space to the left of the entrance nor the four spaces to the right marked in orange below.



New 0-299 game

A new 0-299 game will be held starting Thursday, Oct 27, in parallel with the Open pairs game.

Lower Price

A fixed price of \$5 per game has been set, even if the game is upgraded.

Mini-lesson

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

Game Schedule

Wednesdays – Invitational
Thursdays – Open & 299'er (starting Oct 27)
10:30 a.m.
Arabia Shriners
10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person
- Proof of vaccinations required
- Masks optional
- Coffee & Snacks provided
- Jennifer Breihan, Susan Kaplan and Catherine Brown directors

Play Wednesday, play Free play on Thursday

This popular feature has been extended indefinitely.

Game Calendar

Wed – Oct 19	Club Appreciation	Wed – Nov 2	Unit Championship
Thu – Oct 20	Charity	Thu – Nov 3	Unit Championship
Wed – Oct 26	Charity	Wed – Nov 9	Unit STAC
Thu – Oct 27	Club Appreciation	Thu – Nov 10	Unit STAC
		Wed – Nov 6	Royal STAC
		Thu – Nov 17	Royal STAC

Birthday Celebration

Come join our fun October birthday celebrations on Wednesday, Oct 26 and Thursday, Oct 27.

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 7:00 pm (Protege should invite and pay for a game of mentor)

Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions:

mlinkins@swbell.net

BCOH Open Games (Face 2 Face)

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

games

Monday: 11:55am

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10:30 am

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 the BCOH website for details

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

Events/Celebration

November 5th - BCOH 20-Year Celebration! Come join in the celebration with many of the founding members. Chicken Pasta will be served for lunch at 11:00. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The open game will begin 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!**

Our October 499er/NLM Tournament was a great success. We thank all the volunteers who worked together to put on this event for our 499ers.

We had 53.5 tables and, unofficially, awarded 101.42 points to 70 players. That point total will be increased by 20% after the tournament files are processed by ACBL. Special congratulations to **Kyo Chen** and **Hua Chen**, the overall winners, playing in their first tournament. We expect to see them at many more!

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.

Clear Lake Bridge Club

is located at 16614 Sea Lark Road, Houston 77059. Visit our website for more details about location/phone/games: www.clearlakebridgeclub.org

**CLBC will be CLOSED during the Unit Halloween Sectional
OCT 28th - 30th**



Regular Games

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

Open Teams - Sunday 1 PM

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

199er Pairs - Wednesday 2 PM

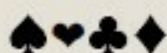
299er Pairs - Monday 2 PM



Houstonians looking for In-Person weekend games are welcomed to play at CLBC

Saturday at 1:00. Open Pairs

Sunday at 1:00. Open Teams



Mentor-Mentee - Oct 19, 1:30 PM (Lunch) and 2 PM game.

M/M participation requires Reservations.

CONTACT: Marcia Chambliss at jpchambliss@comcast.net

[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.

Katy/Cypress DBC Special Games for Nov 2022

Tuesday, Nov. 8 - STaC - Extra masterpoints, \$5 per player, at Weekley

Wednesday, Nov. 9 - STaC - Extra masterpoints, \$5 per player, at Radack

Thursday, Nov. 10 - STaC - Extra masterpoints, \$5 per player, at Weekley

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Royal STaC - Extra Masterpoints, \$5 per player at Weekley

Wednesday, Nov. 16 - Royal STaC - Extra Masterpoints, \$5 per player at Radack

Thursday, Nov. 17 - Royal STaC - Extra Masterpoints, \$5 per player at Weekley

Future Life Masters of Unit 174



Visit our new website!

Check out the new Webpages
for Beginning Bridge Instructors

www.flm174.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sundays at Shriners

Once a month for a relaxed Sunday afternoon

199er Game IN PERSON in Central Houston for ALL our area players

Singletons welcome! Partners provided!

OCTOBER 16th at 2:00 PM

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

www.flm174.org/games

Covid Vax required

\$5.00 18-Board Game, Snacks & Fun

10510 Harwin Dr., Houston

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 STARTING OCT 27th

- **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

0-199er CHOOSE HOUSTON Weekdays at 9:50 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 \$7 per person. Masks are encouraged, and you must have a partner. For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com.



Guest Editors

October 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes
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. 38-41)
 - Problem 5. Both the contestant auctions and the *Bridge Bulletin* auction use a 4♦ cue bid to show a choice of suits – and not just the majors. Both *Bridge Bulletin* auction and one contestant auction found the difficult-to-find highest-scoring spot: 6♣.
 - Problem 6. In the *Bridge Bulletin* auction the opener self-splinters to find the highest-scoring 6♠ contract.
 - Problem 7. The *Bridge Bulletin* auction jumps to 3NT (in response to a 1♦ open) with a stiff ♥K. The defense has no clues from the bidding as to what to do. Holding the ♥A and length, Righty will likely lead a fourth-best heart making the ♥K good.
2. "Parrish the Thought: Partner didn't lead a singleton" by Adam Parrish (p. 47). Side-suit singletons, if they exist, are almost always led against a suit contract. So, if partner does not lead a certain suit, it is unlikely that partner holds a singleton in it. An unsupported ace is generally a poor opening lead. However, later in the deal (after you have seen the dummy) it is sometimes the best lead as you can make declarer guess the location of missing honors.
3. "Reasoning with Robert: Third-seat opening bids" by Robert S. Todd (p. 48). In third seat we can open hands that we would not open in first or second seat. One reason for doing so is to suggest partner lead a specific suit on the opening lead – even if that suit is a very good *four-card* major. A second reason is simply to take the opponents' bidding room – especially if our suit is a major. At favorable vulnerability, some players might pre-empt with a decent *five-card* suit.
4. "Challenge of the Month," (p. 52). As is often the case, the key play is made at trick one. In this case declarer must unblock the ♠A at trick one to create a spade entry to dummy's good clubs.
5. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 53). While commenting on reverses, Helms gives an example where he would open 1N with a singleton K rather than reverse.
6. "Mike's Bridge Lesson: A complete balancing auction" by Mike Lawrence (p. 54). When, as a defender, you have natural trump tricks, do not try to ruff with them. Instead, try to set up tricks in the other suits.
7. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgement – part 17" by Marty Bergen (p. 59). Bergen presents an example of when to open 1NT with a stiff ♠K.
8. "Mike's Advice: Opening bid problems with follow-up bids" by Mike Lawrence (p. 62). Lawrence makes a case for passing some hands that could be opened but where a descriptive rebid may not exist. He notes that you will likely have another chance to bid and doing so in the context of other bids will enable you to make a more accurate bid. He also gives examples of bids that are not textbook-perfect, but are the best you can do: a 1N rebid with the singleton ♠T, after partner responds 1♠ to your 1m open, and an opening 1N with two major-suit doubletons, one of which is a weak doubleton.

Our Favorites

“Parrish the Thought: Partner didn’t lead a singleton” by Adam Parrish (p. 47).

		♠ K J 6 2	
		♥ K Q J 8 7	
		♦ 5 4	
		♣ 8 7	
♠ 4 3			♠ A 5
♥ 10 5	W	N	♥ A 9 4 3 2
♦ Q 10 8 6	+	E	♦ A 7 3 2
♣ K 6 5 3 2	S		♣ 9 4
		♠ Q 10 9 8 7	
		♥ 6	
		♦ K J 9	
		♣ A Q J 10	

You are East, defending against 4♠ by South after a 1♠ – 3♠ (limit raise) | 4♠ auction.

Partner makes the unfortunate lead of the ♣2 (we would lead a fourth-best ♣3; it would still be unfortunate). Declarer wins the ♣Q. You know that partner, a strong defender, would not underlead an ace, so declarer has the ♣A. Therefore, partner is not winning the club honor strongly suggested by the lead as the dummy will be void in clubs after the second round.

Your three aces hold declarer to the ten tricks he needs for his contract. Where will you get the fourth trick to set him? The only possible loser declarer has is a second diamond. If you cash your three aces and lead a diamond, you will set the contract if partner has the ♦K. However, cashing the ♦A will hand declarer the contract on a silver platter if declarer has the ♦K.

The proper play is a small diamond. It forces declarer to guess who has the ♦Q and who has the ♦A. Most declarers would play West for the ♦A. Holding the ♦A, West would not have led away from it on the opening lead. Since West did not lead a diamond, there is a good chance he has the ♦A. When you lead a low diamond, South will likely play the ♦Jack, hoping to get West to play the ♦A and make South’s ♦K good. That action will not work out in this instance and South will lose two diamond tricks.

If declarer does guess to play in the ♦K, at least you have given yourself a chance to set the contract.

“Reasoning with Robert: Third-seat opening bids” by Robert S. Todd (p. 48)

♠10 9 2	♥A K J 9	♦K 2	♣9 8 7 2
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In third seat, you hold the hand above. The auction proceeds with two passes to you.

Most would stretch to open this hand in third seat. We are not interested in game on this hand as partner has already passed. However, we should open this hand 1♥ to get a heart lead; we definitely do not want a club lead.

If partner should raise we have a reasonable chance of making 2♥ in a 4-3 fit with such a strong trump holding. If we end up defending, we get the heart lead we want.

Challenge of the Month, Page 52.

The key decision on many deals is made at trick one. If you carelessly win the ♠J or ♠T, East will hold up the ♣K when you run the ♣T at trick two. On the third trick you can either take the

		♠ Q 7 2	
		♥ 8 5	
		♦ 9 2	
		♣ A Q J 9 8 4	
♠ K 9 8 5 3			♠ 6 4
♥ J 9 7 2	W	N	♥ Q 10 3
♦ A 10 4	+	E	♦ J 7 6 5
♣ 6	S		♣ K 7 5 2
		♠ A J 10	
		♥ A K 6 4	
		♦ K Q 8 3	
		♣ 10 3	
West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT
West leads the ♠5. What’s your plan?			

losing club finesse or win your ♣A. Either way you go down. If you take the losing finesse, you will not be able to use spades as transportation to the dummy. If you win the ♣A, you will get that trick, but East will win the next club trick and you will again not be able to use spades to get to dummy.

If instead you win the ♠A at trick one, you will be able to knock out the ♣K and then use the ♠Q as an entry to the rest of the clubs.

West’s ♠5 lead is probably fourth-best and West probably has the ♠K. When East does not play the ♠K at trick two, he likely does not have it.

The ♠Q, likely sitting behind the ♠K, will be the entry to the clubs.



We are looking for someone to replace us as editors of the monthly Unit 174 Newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Unit 174 President -

Thomas Rush at [Thomas Rush](#). The job requires familiarity with Emails, Word, PDFs, Snipping Tool, and a fair amount of organization. You will be shown how to use Robly - to create this email, as well as given a list of contacts for information to be included.

Thank you to all the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy. **If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities, please contact Thomas Rush at [Thomas Rush](#).**

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

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