



SEPTEMBER



Unit 174 Newsletter September 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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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 - September

Sometimes you don't appreciate how good you have it in life until you see how someone else lives. No, this isn't a sad and mournful piece, just a reflection on a recent vacation.

My partner and I took a vacation to Hawaii in early September and spent a week on the island of Oahu. It was the first time in Hawaii for both of us. Boy, if it weren't for the tourists and the exchange rate, I'd go back tomorrow!

It also happened that while we were there, there was a sectional tournament in Honolulu. What else does a bridge player do in paradise besides play bridge? So we did. The people were nice, and the games were well run. The tournament was held on the second (top) floor of the municipal golf course clubhouse building, and we had a wonderful view of the flanks of Diamond Head from it. The total table count for the three days was 72, with 352 points won by 69 players. In contrast, our last Houston sectional was the four-day Awesome August Sectional, with 397 tables and 2384 points won by 361 players. Remember when Westside Bridge Academy could hit 72 tables in two days, one session each day?

Oahu is just under 600 square miles, a great deal of it sparsely populated not only due to agriculture (hey, it takes a lot of land to grow pineapple, bananas, sugar, and macadamia nuts!), but also because a lot of the island is covered by steep remnants of the volcanoes that formed the island. But think of that - 600 square miles is only 1/3 the size of Harris County at 1,777 square miles! The island's population is about 1.2 million; Harris County is close to 5 million souls, four times as large.

That means there are a whole lot more potential bridge players here in Unit 174 (which spans an area much larger than just Harris County). Also, take into consideration that if you don't live in Oahu, you would have had to get on an airplane and fly (or boat) to the tournament. Talk about barriers to entry!

Oh, the scenery was beautiful. The plumeria grow everywhere and become good-sized trees. Other exotic shrubs and trees add visual delight that you'll never see here on the mainland.

Having said all that, after playing at the Oahu Sectional, I feel especially fortunate to live in an area with the dynamic bridge we find in Unit 174. Our sectionals have fields stronger and larger than many ACBL regionals can draw. Our larger club games are larger and have stronger fields than many sectional tournaments draw.

Your Unit Board is hard at work planning the October Hallowe'en Sectional. We'll look forward to seeing you there October 28 - 30, with some special activities, including a costume contest, so bring your best ghoul, and let's play bridge!

President, ACBL Unit 174
PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com



Plumeria in Oahu



On the water in Oahu



Oahu Vista



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: Barbara J Bassett, Shelly J Bidvia, Lee Emmett, Sandra Kamrath, Mary P Shoemaker, Gerald M Stevenson, Richard G Whaling

Transfers In: Randy Burks, Jerry L Lemons, Charles E Moon, Mrs. Anita West

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

Beryl T Booker, Richard Brody,
Robert C Domsalla, Micheal
Fearnow, Marilyn R Knatz, Renata
Knecht

Club Master

Robert Boyd, Lynn M Clark, Teresa A Clifford, Stephen H Golub, Abbas
A Kapasi, Maria L Turner, Judie Whaling

Sectional Master

Carolyn A Hardy, Jean L Lara, Charles H Otto, Judy Richeson, James W
Warren

Regional Master

Chris Duncan, Craig P Howard, William B Price, Paula L Towner

NABC Master

John C Herzer, Lois A McCallister, Richard Napientek

Advanced NABC Master

Kathy L'Hommedieu

Life Master

Hasin F Jinna, Bonnie A Loudin, Sara M Rowe, Tom Russel, Betty
Westbrook

Bronze Life Master

Carol A Jenkinson

Silver Life Master

Sharon K Arnold, Twyla J Woody

Ruby Life Master

Aleksandr Adelman, Beverly S Linskey, Linda M Martinsen

Gold Life Master

Rebecca Rojo, Charles W Sommer

!!! Congratulations !!!



Houston Unit 174 Bewitches Bridge

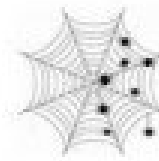


\$1 Coffee



Oct 28 thru 30
Friday thru Sunday

Halloween Sectional 2022



\$1 Soda



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

clif709@aol.com
(832) 541-7067

Sarah Springer

SarahSpringerBridges@gmail.com
(281) 904-5791

Hospitality Chair

Janice Hardcastle

janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com
(832) 643-1704

Partnership Chair

Linda Drake

linkay0@yahoo.com
(608) 235-1235

I/N - FLM Chairs

I/N Chair

Betty Westbrook

bwestbrooktx@gmail.com
(713) 851-0026

FLM Chair

Mary Ellen Vail

mevail48@gmail.com
(678) 910-6402



Guest Speakers - 2:00 Friday & Saturday

Friday: Joe Quinn

"The Trauma of Total Tricks on Halloween"

Saturday: Gary King

"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 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

Love playing at



the Bridge Academy

Game Schedule

Wednesdays - Invitational

Thursdays - Open

10:30 a.m.

Arabia Shriners

10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person - \$6 for upgraded games
- 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 – Sep 28 International Fund
Raiser

Wed – Oct 12 Club Appreciation

Thu – Sep 29 International Fund
Raiser

Thu – Oct 13 Club Appreciation

Birthday Celebration

Come join our fun September birthday celebrations on Wednesday, Sep 28 and Thursday, Sep 29.

Need a partner?

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

[BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON](#)

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 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, Friday: 10:30am

SAVE THE DATES:

“Open 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

Saturday F2F - Please check BCOH website for details

October 6th-9th - 499er Tournament

Events/Celebration

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!

Beverages and snacks provided for all F2F games

Proof of vaccination is required for all F2F games



SILVER POINTS ! SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS!

499er/NLM Tournament

Oct 6- Oct 9, 2022

4688 Louetta Rd., Spring TX (next to Tuesday Morning)
281-651-6550 | thebridgeclub@sbcglobal.net

Partnership

Need a partner? Contact **Janice Hardcastle** at 832-643-1704 or janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com.

Stratification

A = 500 B = 300 C = 100

Strats may vary at the director's discretion

Lunch / Snacks

Free snacks and drinks available all days. Lunch available for \$5 on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, if ordered by 10am.

Entry Fees

ACBL Member (current)

\$10 per session per player

Lapsed ACBL Member

\$14 per session per player

Tournament Chairs

Debbie Nash & Joanna Heebner
debbienash45@gmail.com

Pre-registration highly recommended on our website (www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh) for pairs and swiss teams

A swiss team sign-up sheet will also be available at the tournament

Event Schedule

Thursday, October 6th

♠ 499er Pairs 10am
♠ 499er Pairs 2pm

Friday, October 7th

♠ 499er Pairs 10am
♠ 499er Pairs 2pm

Saturday, October 8th

♠ 499er Pairs 10am
♠ 499er Pairs 2pm

Sunday, October 9th

♠ 499er Swiss Team 1:30pm

Ask the Expert

On **Sunday, Oct 9th, from 12:30-1:15pm**, expert players will answer questions about your tournament hands. They will also discuss hands which demonstrate an interesting bidding, declarer or defense situation.

Proof of Covid vaccination required to enter

Masks optional

Club HVAC system, filters recently updated

[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
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			Open				
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



Regular Games

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

Open Teams - Sunday 1 PM

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

199er Games - Wednesday 2 PM



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



Special Games and Events

Eight is Enough Team Game - Sept 11th at 1 PM

Breakfast, Lesson, and Bridge Game - Sept 14th, 9 AM

Mentor-Mentee - Sept 21st, 1:30 PM (Lunch) and 2 PM game.

M/M participation requires Reservations.

CONTACT: Marcia Chambliss at ipchambliss@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**](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com).

Katy/Cypress DBC Special Games for Oct. and Nov. 2022

Tuesday, Oct. 11 - Club Appreciation – Extra Masterpoints, \$3 per player, at Weekley

Wednesday, Oct. 12 - Club Appreciation – Extra Masterpoints, \$3 per player at Radack

Thursday, Oct. 13 - Club Appreciation – Extra Masterpoints, \$3 per player, at Weekley

Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Club Appreciation – Extra Masterpoints, \$3 per player, at Weekley

Wednesday, Oct. 19 - Club Appreciation – Extra Masterpoints, \$3 per player at Radack

Thursday, Oct. 20 - Club Appreciation – Extra Masterpoints, \$3 per player, at Weekley

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!**

SEPTEMBER 25th at 2:00 PM

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

www.flm174.org/games

Covid Vax required

\$5.00 18-Board Game, Snacks & Fun

Face-to-Face

10510 Harwin Dr., Hous

GAMES

199er Game at Clear Lake Bridge Club, Wednesdays at 2:00 PM

In support of area 199ers, CLBC invites all players in Unit
174 to play at the Member price of \$5.00.

Covid vax required.

PARTNER NOT REQUIRED - AMBASSADOR PROVIDED

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. Entires 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 9:20AM. 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

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.

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 Monday at Noon and Thursdays at 10:30am. 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 September, ALL of our games will award EXTRA masterpoints.

In October, on the first Monday, there will be a free lesson from Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll. He plans to finish up his lecture on Hand Evaluation and Reevaluation and discuss when to open 1 notrump with a 5 card major. The lesson begins at 11 am before the game at Noon. Other topics to be covered:

1. Mixed Raise
2. Help Suit Game Tries
3. Splinter by Opener
1. Bidding a cold Slam with the Jacoby 2NT system - and knowing when not to splinter
4. Bidding over interference
5. Stayman, including garbage Stayman and Crawling Stayman

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, #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

September 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, Problem 7 (p. 42).** The Bridge Bulletin auction shows how to right-side the 6NT contract so that the doubleton ♠K is protected. One pair did not get it right and risked the slam on the position of the ♠K for an average score. The other pair protected the ♠K for a top.

2. **“It’s Your Call” by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 1 (p.44).** Most of the expert panel chose a Roman Key Card 4NT for the top score. However, because South’s previous bid was 3NT, Colchamiro, Boehm, and Donn are not sure that partner would take it as Blackwood in that situation. It’s a good hand to discuss with a regular partner to see if you agree.

3. **“Card Play 101” by Phillip Alder, Deal 2 (p. 48).** It is not always best to cash an AK right away. On this deal, you will set up the ♥Q, giving declarer a valuable discard.

4. **“Mike’s Bridge Lesson: A complete balancing auction” by Mike Lawrence (p. 56)** presents a nice discussion of when to overcall (and when not to) and when to balance (and when not to).

5. **“Chalk Talk” by Eddie Kantar (p 57).** (The article subtitle appears to have been left over from last month and we have omitted it). Both deals exemplify the need to plan before playing to the first trick.

1. The ♠K lead strongly suggests that West holds the ♠Q. Duck the

first trick and play the ♠J, unblocking the suit. Later, finesse the ♠T against West's ♠Q. Pitch a loser on dummy's ♠A.

2. Defense has attacked the only suit that will allow you to reach dummy. Win the ♠A in the closed hand, preserving the ♠QJ as a guaranteed entry to the club suit.

6. **“Challenge of the Month” (p. 58).** After drawing trump and eliminating all your clubs, play diamonds, forcing East on lead. East must either give you a ruff and a sluff or play into dummy's red-suit holdings.

7. **“Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgement - part 16” by Marty Bergen (p. 61).** When the defense derails your original plan, you must make another one. In this case, the defense removes two trumps from dummy, preventing you from trumping clubs. Therefore, you need to set up the five-card diamond suit. Duck the first round of diamonds; give up the lead sooner rather than later.

8. **“Mike's Advice: A difficult decision in the auction” by Mike Lawrence (p. 64)** describes a situation where a weak jump shift could be used to accurately describe responder's hand and may prevent subsequent bids by the opponents and by the opener.

Our Favorites

“Card Play 101” by Phillip Alder, Deal 2 (p. 48)

<p>2</p> <p>♠ K 2 ♥ A K 8 7 6 ♦ 9 8 7 ♣ 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 10 9 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ K Q ♣ 6 5 4 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N W - E S</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 6 5 4 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A J 10 ♣ A J</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ K Q 10 9</p>	
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West	North	East	South
Pass	3♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♠

Sitting West, you lead the ♥A: T, 2 4. What would you do next?

The “automatic” play of the ♥K would be a disaster. Playing the ♥K sets up dummy's ♥Q on which declarer can pitch his losing club.

Giving it a little more thought, West should lead a club at trick two as there is little to lose by not leading a club. It is highly unlikely that West's heart trick will disappear, and now the defense gets a club trick that would disappear if declarer can pitch on the ♥Q.

Now, the defense takes two hearts, one club, and the ♠K, setting the contract. If the ♥K is cashed at trick two, the defense's club trick disappears and the contract makes.

"Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 57)

①

♠ A 10 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ 9 8 7 6 3	N W — E S	♠ 7 6 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ 10 9 8 2 ♣ A Q J 10	
♠ K Q 9 8 5 ♥ 6 4 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K 4 2		♠ J 4 ♥ A K Q J 10 7 5 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 5	
West 1♠ All Pass	North Pass	East 2♠	South 4♥

West leads the ♠K. Plan the play.

If you carelessly win the ♠A, you will get only the one spade trick. When you play the ♠J, West will win the ♠Q. The good ♠10 will be stranded in dummy.

So, duck the ♠K. West is most likely leading from the ♠KQ, as that is the normal lead. When you get in, pull defenders' trumps and then finesse against the ♠Q in West. You will make your contract taking two spades, seven hearts, and a diamond.

If you win the ♠A at trick one, you will have to depend on the losing diamond finesse. Most of the time, when an opponent opens, he holds the missing major honor. That's the case on this hand. So, it'll be down one.

"Mike's Advice: A difficult decision in the auction" by Mike Lawrence (p. 64)

♠ K 8 4 ♥ Q 2 ♦ K Q J 10 5 ♣ 10 6 4	N W — E S	♠ Q 10 ♥ 3 ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ A K J 8 5 3	♠ A 5 ♥ A K 9 8 7 5 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 9 7 2
		♠ J 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ J 10 6 4 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ —	
West 2♦	North 1♣ 3♣	East 1♥ Dbl	South Pass ?

North's 1♣ bid is routine.

East's 1♥ bid is routine. (2♥ would be preemptive; this is an opener with a strong suit.)

South has an easy 2♠ bid if North-South are playing weak jump shifts in competition. This is a common treatment. 2♠ is likely to win the auction, and it lets North know that South has 2-5 points and six spades. If N/S are not playing weak jump shifts in competition, then South must pass.

West's 2♦ bid is routine

North's 3♣ bid is aggressive. Maybe too aggressive.

East had a good double: three quick tricks, decent clubs behind the club bidder, and a partner who has shown a good diamond suit.

Down 4 for -800. North found the worst possible dummy. South could have bid 3♠, but that was also a high-risk bid that could have been even worse.

This hand is an advertisement for weak jump shifts in competition.

Lawrence goes on to suggest an Ogust-like treatment if opener has a huge hand in support of partner's weak jump shift. Opener bids 2N and responder describes his hand (within the context of 2-5 HCP and six of his suit):

- 3♣ = bad hand, bad suit
- 3♦ = bad hand, good suit (course here, a good suit would have about 3 points) •
- 3H = good hand (close to 5 points), bad suit
- 3S = good hand, a good suit

It's a good idea to discuss this with your partner before trying it at the table.

Trump Management - Cross Ruff by Jack Lavigne

One of the first lessons we are taught is to draw trumps (get the children off the street). This is done so the opponents will not ruff our winners with their small trump.

However, for some hands, the drawing of trumps should be postponed.

The cross-ruff is a play where the declarer does not intend to draw trumps but rather score the trumps individually. For example, South is declaring 4 spades:

Example 1

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ KQJ3	
	♥ A642	
	♦ 10842	
	♣ 7	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ 54		♠ 72
♥ Q107		♥ KJ985
♦ AKQJ		♦ 75
♣ K1052		♣ QJ63
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ A10986	
	♥ 3	
	♦ 963	
	♣ A984	

West cashes the three top diamonds (East pitching a heart). West now shifts to the 5 of spades with the hope of reducing the ruffing power.

South's first thought might be to draw the remaining trumps. A more careful look makes it apparent that if declarer draws another trump, the dummy will have only two trumps to cover South's three club losers.

After West's trump shift, declarer cannot afford to draw another trump. He lets the trump ride to his hand so that he can capture East's 7 with the 8.

Next, South plays of A of clubs and trumps a club with the J in dummy. This is followed by the A of hearts followed by heart ruff with 6.

South continues ruffing clubs in dummy and hearts in his own hand. After the opponents take the first three tricks, declarer takes the remainder:

A of hearts A of clubs 3 trumps in dummy 5 trumps in hand
Realize that if declarer drew a second round of trumps, he would be limited to nine tricks (only two trumps in dummy).

Example 2

When considering a cross-ruff, be sure to follow this rule:

Cash your side tricks early

If declarer fails to cash the side tricks early, a defender may be able to sluff that suit while declarer cross-ruffs and subsequently trump a side suit winner. The following example illustrates this point.

This time South is declaring 6 spades, and the opening lead is a trump.

<u>North</u>		
♠ KQJ3		
♥ A642		
♦ AK42		
♣ 7		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ 5		♠ 742
♥ Q107		♥ KJ985
♦ Q1087		♦ J5
♣ K10532		♣ QJ6
<u>South</u>		
♠ A10986		
♥ 3		
♦ 963		
♣ A984		

Suppose declarer initiates the cross-ruff immediately. When the fourth club is trumped in dummy, East pitches a diamond.

Now when declarer attempts to cash the AK of diamonds, East trumps the second, and the slam goes down.

The remedy is to cash the AK of diamonds before initiating the cross-ruff. When the fourth round of clubs is trumped in dummy, East pitches a heart. Declarer takes 12 tricks:

A of hearts AK of diamonds A of clubs 3 trumps in dummy 5 trumps in hand

Summary

In general, declarer wants to draw trumps as soon as possible. However, when the conditions are right, the total number of tricks can be increased by attempting a cross-ruff.

From the Editors



Sorry this is late, but hopefully, you will still find it valuable. As the Covid becomes manageable our lives have become more active :-)

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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