



## Unit 174 April 2023 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

### **President's Message**

### **New Members and Rank Advancements**

### **Member Profile**

*Evvie Gilbert - Computer Guy: Doug Boswell*

### **Unit News**

*Coming Tournaments*

*Electional Sectional*

*Meet The Candidates*

*499er Sectional*

*99er Nite Club*

*199er Nite Club*

*Future Life Masters*

*2023 Club Table Counts*

*In Memoriam*

### **Club News**

*Apple Clubs*

*Bridge Academy of West Houston*

*Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)*

*Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule*

*Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)*

*Cypress Northwest DBC & Katy DBC*

*Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club - Sugar Land*

*Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club*

*Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club (LCDBC)*

*Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC)*

*Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club*

*Spring Branch Duplicate Bridge Club*

*Star Duplicate Bridge Club*

### **Contributors**

*Jeff Kroll - A Useful & Alertable 3NT Bid*

*Thomas Rush - Useful Obscure Bids - Part II*

Please visit the Unit 174 [Website](#) to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



Kathy

## President's Message

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb (ewe might say it leaves sheepishly...). Let's spring into action and turn over a new leaf this month! Join us at the April Election Sectional, where we will hold the Annual Meeting and also announce our newly-elected board members. Here are the details:

### The April Election Sectional

- The tournament will be held at the Arabia Shrine Center April 14th through 16th. See the flyer below.
- GNT District finals will be held on Saturday and Sunday for flights C and A. Further details can be found on the [Unit webpage](#).
- Voting will take place one hour before each session of the tournament on Friday and on Saturday morning. Online voting is available until April 11th at 3 pm. Information about the candidates can be seen below and further voting information can be found on the Unit webpage.
- The 175th Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 15th. The meeting was moved to Saturday to encourage greater attendance and ensure a quorum is met.
- The annual award presentation will occur, and the election results will also be presented on Saturday, with candidates selected to fill three board positions.

Last bud not least (and I'm not pollen your leg), we have a lot in store in the next coming months. You will learn more at the April tournament during the annual meeting. See ya'll there!

Kathy McDougall  
[katmac432@hotmail.com](mailto:katmac432@hotmail.com)

---



## New Members and Rank Advancement

---



### New Members

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who transferred into our Unit. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

**New Members:** Deborah Anderson, Shayne E Bell, Robert L Erwin, Aaron Hurd, Pradeep Kohli, Becky S Lanier, Zachary Oliva, Diane Wattengargerr

**Transfers:** Mr Joseph W Gross

***Welcome!***

---

### Rank Advancements

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of March 7, 2023. An explanation of ranks may be found on



the [ACBL website](#).

**Junior Master**

Lee Emmett, Ms Ann P Fleming, Tom Fowler, Carol R Ince, Fred Infortunio, Mary D Johnson, Winnie Mohsenzadeh, Jeffrey W Sheets, Mrs Patricia Ann Sheets, Martha B Stern, Therese A Tilley

**Club Master**

Hua Chen, Ahmet Kalkan, Marilyn R Knatz, Mr David E Preng, Mariah Stopper

**Sectional Master**

Kyo Chen, Robert C Domsalla, Mrs Maria L Turner, Richard J Wasser

**Regional Master**

Mary Ann Boerner, Pat Chichakli, Rathindra Dutt, Beverly Gebhart, Charles Otto, Christine Spalding

**NABC Master**

Pushpa Bharani, Sherry Deal, Penny Dougherty, Gretchen Lindquist, Brian Schaffer

**Advanced NABC Master**

Marcia Chambliss, Mike Davis, Bill Farrar, Judy Farrar, Ian Fetterley, Elizabeth Giroir, Rony Klein, Wolfie Kotzen, Mark Levy, Susan Morrow, Madhu Moza, June Poplack, Ronald Randleman, Joan Schnider, Susan Smith, Barbara Sweeney

**Life Master**

Joseph Baker, Martin Hrachovy, Kay Marechek, Sadashiv Pethe, Scherry Sprague, Roslyn Wallace, Debbie Zimmer

**Bronze Life Master**

Hasin Jinna, Rosalind Kokolis, Kay Marechek, Richard McGaughy, Scherry Sprague, Roslyn Wallace

**Silver Life Master**

Richard Jackson, Danuta Parzych

**Ruby Life Master**

Kathy Baldwin, Anne Knott, David Richard, Gary Shepley

**Gold Life Master**

Alfred Fortier III, Joanna Heebner, Carlos Pace

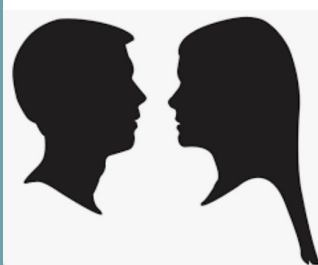
**Sapphire Life Master**

Hallie Eads

**Platinum Life Master**

Buddy Hanby

**!!! Congratulations !!!**



**Member Profiles**



**Computer Guy: Doug Boswell**

BY **EVVIE  
GILBERT**

Doug Boswell has been playing bridge for over 50 years. He guesses about 25 years playing party bridge and 25 playing duplicate bridge.

He was raised in St. Louis, Missouri and went to college in Kansas City where he was originally a mathematics major. He eventually graduated with a degree in social sciences and a minor in business. He joined McDonnell Douglas after graduating and moved to Denver where he worked as a programmer mainly using COBOL.

After a few years of programming, Doug found it to be boring so he changed to a position doing sales support. He soon realized that role was a lot of work and the remuneration was small compared to the sales personnel. It was the sales personnel making the “big bucks” so he switched to sales where he spent the rest of his career.

Doug left McDonnell Douglas to head an office of a start-up company and eventually moved to the Ft. Worth area even though he said he’d never live in Texas.

After the move to Ft. Worth, Doug joined ACBL in 1996 and started playing at the Ft. Worth Bridge Studio but due to work constraints, he was only able to play once a week.

In 1999 a position opened in the Houston area with IBM so Doug moved south and started playing at the Clear Lake Bridge Club with (now) long-time partner Rodney McCullough. Turns out that Rodney and he had a Ft. Worth partner in common although they had never met each other while both were living in Ft. Worth.

Doug and Rodney amassed most of their masterpoints playing at tournaments so by the time Doug had 200 total masterpoints, he had earned the required pigmented points for his life master. So, it was just a matter of earning any points. He became a Life Master in 2006 and in the summer of 2022, he achieved his Silver Life Master.



Doug now lives on the north side of Houston where he is a member of the Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC). He previously served on that club’s board and today he’s their “computer” guy. He publishes their weekly club newsletter, he is the club’s webmaster (<https://lonestarbridgeclub.org>) and he is often found assisting the club’s directors to set up games. In addition to those activities, he is also a dealer.

When not playing bridge and doing all of the LSBC volunteer work, he and his wife Carrie are Class A motor homers. They have traveled coast to coast and made many friends along the way.

Doug has also restored/rebuilt a few antique cars: Model A and Original GT Mustang.

Doug and Carrie have four children, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Very busy man indeed!



## Unit News

## Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
Apr 4-8, 2023	Longview	TX	225	Regional	Open
Apr 12-14, 2023	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	I/N
Apr 14-16, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Apr 15-16, 2023	Houston	TX	174	GNT/NAP	GNT District Final
Apr 22-23, 2023	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Apr 27-30, 2023	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
May 4-7, 2023	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
May 8-14, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC
May 18-21, 2023	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
May 20-June 4, 2023	Acapulco Diamante	GR		Regional	Open
Jun 9-11, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Jun 12-18, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC
Aug 10-13, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
Aug 10-13, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Sep 21-24, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Oct 27-29, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
Oct 27-29, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Nov 6-12, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC
Nov 16-19, 2023	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Dec 4-10, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC

You can find tournament information by clicking [ACBL Tourneys](#).

---

## Election Sectional

# Houston Unit 174 Proudly Presents

April 14 thru 16



\$1 Coffee



Unit 174 annual meeting  
between Saturday Sessions

Note: ACBL has  
increased awards by 20%

## 2023 Election Sectional

Voting Times:  
One hour prior to Friday  
sessions. One hour prior  
to Saturday morn session.

Election Results revealed Sat afternoon

### 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



Director in Charge - Kevin Perkins

#### Table Fees per Session

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: \$15  
(\$4 more for lapsed members)

Table Fees are cashless (credit card only)

#### TownePlace Suites by Marriott

10610 Westpark Dr, Houston TX 77042  
Call Anthony Imes 713-893-1638 for 15% discount

#### Springhill Suites by Marriott

5851 Rogerdale Rd, Houston, TX 77072  
(832) 300-0200

#### Covid Safety

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

### Playing Schedule

Friday & Saturday, Apr 14 & 15th

Stratified Open Pairs 10 & 2:30  
Stratified 299'r Pairs (single sessions) 10 & 2:30  
Side Game (single sessions) 10 & 2:30  
0 - 50 FLM Pairs (Fri & Sat only) 10 & 2:30  
Bracketed Swiss 10 & 2:30

Sunday, Apr 16th

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions) 10 & TBD  
Stratified 299'r Pairs (single sessions) 10 & TBD  
Bracketed Swiss 10 & TBD

#### Grand National Teams

GNT Finals: Saturday & Sunday Apr 15 & 16th  
GNT Flights A & C 10 & TBD

### Tournament Chairs

#### Clif Rice

[clif709@aol.com](mailto:clif709@aol.com)  
(832) 541-7607

#### Charles Dalton

[cdinc35@aol.com](mailto:cdinc35@aol.com)  
(713) 861-3399

#### Hospitality Chair

Brenda & James Morgan  
[brmetzc1@att.net](mailto:brmetzc1@att.net)  
(832) 689-9595

#### Partnership Chair

Harry Selldin  
[hselldin@mc.com](mailto:hselldin@mc.com)  
(713) 899-3163

#### I/N & FLM Chairs

Cindy Cox  
[bridgecindy5@gmail.com](mailto:bridgecindy5@gmail.com)  
(832) 985-8734

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



Guest Speaker on Friday @ 2:00 - Timo Erkoc - Topic to be announced

Lunch Options: To be announced (No Barbeque on Sunday)

v4



Click [here](#) for larger print.

## Houston Unit 174 to Hold Board Election April 14-16, 2023

All members in good standing in Unit 174 will have the opportunity to vote for three members to its Board of Directors April 14-16, 2023, during the Election Sectional at the Arabia Shrine Center. The three newly elected members will be announced prior to the second session on Sunday, April 16 and join Charles Dalton, John Du Bose, Byron Fackenthal, Clif Rice, Thomas Rush, and Sarah Springer to complete the full nine-member Board. This year's Nominating Committee consisting of Carol Irvin (chair), Dolores Aquino, Nancy Guthrie, Lauri Laufman, and Mary McDonald urges you to vote, either in person, early online, or absentee ballot.

#### Nile Gross



My wife and I moved here from New Orleans along with Katrina in 2005.

I have a Master's degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of New Orleans and I am retired from Bell South and Allief ISD.

I am very well organized and willing to pitch in and assist with whatever needs to be done.

Besides playing bridge, I love playing tennis and collecting stamps. I would be grateful for your vote!

#### Antoun Henri



I was born in Khartoum, Sudan, but am of Egyptian descent. I studied Engineering and graduated from Ain Shams University in 1979.

After graduation, I played rubber bridge with friends and then moved on to duplicate while in England. I came to Houston in 2005 and worked for Schlumberger, becoming an American citizen in 2015.

Now retired, I play bridge almost everyday - learning each day from partners, opponents and teachers. I love bridge and want to share my enthusiasm with others.

I'm honored to run for the Unit Board and would appreciate your vote!

#### Siraj Jiwani



My parents were born in Bombay and migrated to Pakistan in 1947 where I was born. With a degree in Commerce, I transferred to Houston in 1984 as an audit manager of a CPA firm. Later I was CFO of a medical corporation, before founding a company of my own. Soon to retire, I plan to do a lot of volunteer work, play tons of bridge, and learn to play the piano!

I was hooked on bridge after the Pakistani team, led by Zia Mahmood finished 2nd place in the infamous 1981 Bermuda Bowl.

Willing to help wherever needed, and having a few ideas for improving the bridge experience, I would appreciate your vote to join our Unit Board!

#### Dick McGaughy



A native Texan, I received my BS from Texas A&M in Architectural Construction. Certified as a P.E. in 20 states and Surveyor in Texas, I had my own firm for 25 years doing engineering design of low & midrise buildings. I was also a Lt Colonel in the Army Reserves.

I learned to play bridge in 1954 playing after school in Kansas City. My first duplicate experience was in college using travelers. After a 50 year break with family & career taking priority, I returned, soon playing 5 times a week and at tournaments.

I believe we need to find ways to interest the younger generation that bridge is more competitive and personal than computer games without the violence.

#### Karen Nussbaum



The pandemic has changed everyone's life in so many ways, including bridge. The F2F numbers are much lower than before the pandemic, which has caused many clubs throughout the country to close. New clubs are slow in opening because of the economic commitment involved.

ACBL is trying to adjust this issue by rewarding less master points for online games, and increasing master points earned at tournaments by 20%. It is a big step, but more has to happen.

Having served on the Unit Board as VP, President and again VP, I understand the problems, and would like to continue to work toward improving and increasing the F2F game.

#### John Eric Watson



John Eric Watson joined the ACBL in 1990 and in 2010, began training as a director at Houston Bridge studio. A Silver Life Master, Eric has operated the Fort Bend County Duplicate Bridge Club since 2016, with the Sugar Land location alive and well post-pandemic.

He has an MBA from the University of Houston in Marketing and Finance, served 3 years as an artillery officer in the US Army, and worked both as a banker and paralegal.

With years of experience as a player, director, teacher, and club owner/manager, John Eric is well-qualified to be of service to Unit 174.

#### Voting Information

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

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

Early online voting will be available from March 9 until April 11 at 3pm. Go to [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org), click on the VOTE button on the right hand side of the page, and follow the instructions.

To vote by mail, contact the Election Judge, Paul Nimmons by March 18 via U.S. mail, e-mail, or telephone to request an Official Ballot. His contact information is 1108 Krist Dr. Houston, TX 77055; email is [paulnimmons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulnimmons@sbcglobal.net) (713) 822-1305. The ballot must be returned per provided instructions & postmarked no later than March 31 and received by the Election Judges no later than April 11 to be counted.

## 499er Sectional



**SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS!**

### 499er Tournament Apr 27- Apr 30, 2023

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

#### Partnership Chair

**Janice Hardcastle** (832-643-1704  
or janice\_hardcastle@hotmail.com)

*Ambassadors provided. Please  
arrive 30 minutes before game time.*

#### Stratification

**A = 500 B = 300 C = 100**  
*Strats may vary at the director's discretion*

#### Lunch / Snacks

Snacks and drinks available all  
days. Lunch available for \$7 on  
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,  
if ordered by 10am.

#### Entry Fees

**ACBL Member (current)**  
\$10 per session per player  
**Lapsed / Non- ACBL Member**  
\$14 per session per player

#### Tournament Chair **Marsha Boyer**

A Swiss Team sign-up sheet will  
be available at the tournament.

#### Event Schedule

##### Thursday, April 27

♠ 499er Pairs 10am  
♠ 499er Pairs 2pm

##### Friday, April 28

♠ 499er Pairs 10am  
♠ 499er Pairs 2pm

##### Saturday, April 29

♠ 499er Pairs 10am  
♠ 499er Pairs 2pm

##### Sunday, April 30

♠ 499er Swiss Team 1:30pm

#### Ask the Expert

**Sunday, 4/30, 12:30 to 1:15 PM**  
**Buddy Hanby and Sally Wheeler**  
will answer questions about your  
tournament hands. They will also  
discuss hands which demonstrate  
an interesting bidding, declarer  
play or defense situation.

*Proof of COVID vaccination required*

*Masks are Optional*

## 99er Nite Club



## 199er Nite Club



## Future Life Masters





## Future Life Masters of Unit 174

www.flm174.org

---

### Special Club Games

◆ **April 22 at BCOH 299ers**

4688 Louetta Rd, Spring  
Potluck Lunch at 11:00/Game at Noon  
Lunch & Game \$10.00

◆ **April 23 at BAWH 199ers**

Arabia Shriners 10510 Harwin, Houston  
Game at 1:00PM  
Snacks & Game \$5.00

◆ **April 24 at APPLE 299ers**

3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston  
Game at 11:30 \$3.00

**FLM welcomes singletons...Partners provided!**

---

### 499er NonLife Master Tournament

Bridge Club of Houston at 4688 Louetta Rd, Spring

April 27 -30

Games \$10-Lunch \$7

Expected Stratification: A=500 B=300 C=100

**!!! EARN SILVER POINTS !!!**

---

### Regular Club 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
- Bridge Academy of West Houston THURSDAYS at 10:30

#### Online at BBO

- 0-49er FLM Tuesdays at 3:05
- 0-300 CHOOSE HOUSTON Weekdays at 10 AM



---

## Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face and Online. For all of the clubs in the unit, a total of 4624 tables were played among 24 clubs since January 2023. The top three club table counts are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club - 1183 tables
2. Bridge Club of Houston - 793 tables
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston - 548.50 tables



## In Memoriam

Dan Morse

---

## Club News



---

Below please find the information reported by some of the clubs in our Unit. Please send your club news to: [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

The information must be received by the 22nd of the month to be included in the monthly Unit 174 Newsletter. Additional information about all of the clubs can be found on the [Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to their 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.

### New Game:

A 299 game at 11:30 on the fourth Monday of each month starts March 27th. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before game time.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson  
[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer  
[sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information [here](#).

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 are welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.

---



## Bridge Academy of West Houston



### Mentor/Mentee - New date

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30. The next game is scheduled for Apr 4th

If you have not signed up and would like to participate please contact our coordinator Bert Onstott by clicking [here](#).

Mentees must have fewer than 300 masterpoints and Mentors greater than 300 points.



### 8 is enough Swiss Team

Our 8 is enough Swiss Team game is held once a month on a Sunday at 1:00 pm. The next game is on Apr 23rd.

The stratifications are:

Level 1 - 0 to 1000 masterpoints (1)

Level 2 - 1000 to 3000 masterpoints (2)  
Level 3 - 3000+ masterpoints (3)

So for example a Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 player would add up to 8 as would four Level 2 players.

Another example would be to have three Level 2 and one Level 1 player. That adds up to 7 and it is OK to be less than 8.

### Mini-lesson

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

### Game Schedule

**Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee**  
**Wednesdays - Invitational**  
**Thursdays - Open & 299'er**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday - Future Life Masters**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Arabia Shriners**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

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

### Game Calendar

Tue - Apr 4	Mentor/Mentee Charity	Wed - Apr 19	Charity
Wed - Apr 5	Charity	Thu - Apr 20	Charity
Thu - Apr 6	Charity	Sun - Apr 23	FLM & Swiss Team
Wed - Apr 12	Charity	Wed - Apr 26	Charity
Thu - Apr 13	Charity	Thu - Apr 27	Charity

### Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 [martinsens@comcast.net](mailto:martinsens@comcast.net)  
or  
Joyce Ryan at (713) 301-0624 [joyceRyanBridge@gmail.com](mailto:joyceRyanBridge@gmail.com)

BRIDGE  HOUSTON

## Bridge Club of Houston

Please consult our monthly calendar online: [BCOH Calendar](#).

**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: [mlinkins@swbell.net](mailto: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:

Swiss Teams - April 18 at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club**)

**Mentor/Mentee F2F** - April 11 and 25 at 10:30 am. Please contact Judy Cupps: [judy\\_n\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_n_al@yahoo.com) by phone 713-320-5592 for March 14 sign up and Bob Zeigler at 713-829-6928 for March 28. Also contact them with any questions.

**April 21 - PIZZA FRIDAY** Open game at 10:30 free pizza will be served for lunch.

**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**

**March 3 - RANK ADVANCEMENT Acknowledgement** - Open game at 10:30 cake will be provided to celebrate.

**March 17 - PIZZA FRIDAY** Open game at 10:30 free pizza will be served for lunch.

**April 27th- 30th** - 499er Tournament

**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.**

**Saturday F2F**

**April 8** - Open Game @ 12:00pm

**April 22 - \*\*\*Potluck and Points\*\*\*\*\***  
**Extra Extra read all about it!!! 299R and Open game.** This will be a potluck day. Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share! Lunch will be at 11:00am with both games to follow at noon.

---

## 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>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>					<b>FLM 0-20</b>	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM	<b>300er</b>						
10:10 AM	<b>Open</b>						
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM		<b>FLM 0-50</b>					
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit <a href="http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh">www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh</a> for details</i>						
7:00 PM	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Open</b>		<b>Open</b>			

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



## Clear Lake Bridge Club

April 12 - Breakfast, Lesson & bridge 9:00AM. Lesson starts at 9:30. Rick

Stell will discuss bidding one no trump with unbalanced hands and with 5 card majors, also puppet stayman. Reservations for breakfast is required.

Swiss Teams on Sundays at 1:00 PM. Game on April 9th is Eight is Enough Swiss Teams. The B players upper limit is 2000 to 2500. Reservations are required.

April 19th - Mentor/Mentee game 2:00PM. Reserved for members only due to meal cost. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

We will be continuing to learn all the features on the new BridgeMate® scoring devices.

The club has started preparation for the Longest Day celebration on June 21st. Tune in for more information soon.

The Club will be closed for the Election Sectional April 14 - 16.

Bobbie Moutz  
2nd Vice President  
281-546-9199  
[natcolemmed@comcast.net](mailto:natcolemmed@comcast.net)

P.S.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).



## 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) or visit our [website](#).



## Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club

# NEW LOCATION!! BEGINNING APRIL 4

OPEN GAME TUESDAY MORNINGS  
WE START AT OR BEFORE 10:30  
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 10:15 CALL IF YOU WILL BE LATE

- COFFEE AND LITE SNACKS
- WE USE BRIDGE MATE II BRIDGE PADS
- AT LEAST 3 UPGRADED GAMES A MONTH
- HAND RECORDS AFTER EVERY GAME
- NICE BALANCE OF FRIENDLY A, B, & C PLAYERS
- REGULAR & MOST UPGRADED GAMES ARE \$5.00

ERIC WATSON  
ewat2004@aol.com  
832 287 9107

**NEW LOCATION!!**  
**ARABIA SCHRINER'S**  
**10510 HARWIN DR**  
**HOUSTON, TX 77036**



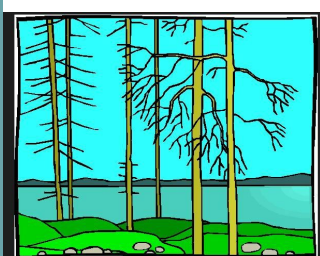
## KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

**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 any of the following:  
Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or [jrsimmons2102@gmail.com](mailto:jrsimmons2102@gmail.com).  
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or [ichibanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:ichibanbill@yahoo.com).  
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281)348-2570  
Or Visit our [website](#).



## LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

**April 2023**

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so players new to duplicate will feel comfortable; and seasoned players will find a challenge. We would like to invite you and your bridge friends to join us every Friday.

We begin playing at 10:30 am. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. Please bring your lunch as we have microwaves and refrigerators for your use.

Our games are played in the Fellowship Room at April Sound Church, located at 67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S, Montgomery. There is easy access from Hwy 105 into the church parking lot.

No Partner?? No worries! Call Gerry Earnest, 936-447-6958 for a partner.

Following is what's happening in April:

- April 7th - Charity Game
- April 14th - Charity Game - April Birthdays Celebration
- April 21st - Charity Game
- April 28th - Charity Game - Pizza lunch provided

We welcome you to join us on Friday's at LCDBC and look forward to seeing all of you at the table.

Penny Grassettonio  
Club Manager  
832-361-4577  
[czthdaypjpg@gmail.com](mailto:czthdaypjpg@gmail.com)  
[website](#)



## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul Global 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](#).

Weekly OPEN games are Mondays at 11:45 am and Thursdays at 10:30 am. All games are stratified.

Proof of Covid vaccination is **no longer** required and masks are optional.

We provide Coffee, bottled water, and only individually wrapped snacks.

Our games are **always** \$5.00.

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee bridge game is on the third Tuesday of every month. (Please Contact Linda Sutton at 936-443-3600 or by email at [Lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:Lindasutton212@gmail.com) if you would like to play as a Mentee.

Please join us for FREE Pizza on the second 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](mailto:smaalouf@icloud.com).

For more information, contact Linda Sutton, Club Manager at [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com).

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#).



## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. For further info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).

---



## SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE CLUB

Games are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 10:30.

Location: Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas. Located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Wirt Road and Westview in the Spring Branch area.

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

Manager & Director  
Judith Hoffing  
713-467-5805  
[hoffing2007@comcast.net](mailto:hoffing2007@comcast.net)  
[website](#)

---



## 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](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).

---



## Contributors

---



BY **Jeff Kroll**

## A Useful & Alertable 3NT Bid

A Useful and Alertable 3NT bid after partner opens 1 of a major. The 3NT bid shows exactly 3 of partner's major and no void, singleton or doubleton and 13-15 points. This bid well defines responders hand. Usually opener will leave the 3NT bid in with a flattish hand or return to play four of the major with a shapely hand. Occasionally, opener will have a big hand and explore for slam.

The value of this bid is when the same number of tricks can be made in



notrump as the major, leading to a good matchpoint board. However, sometimes, opener will think it is easier to score 9 tricks than 10 at IMPS.

I originally heard this bid as being called a Jacoby 3NT bid. I've also heard it referred to as a Bergen 3NT bid.



After West's pass, North opens 1♠. East passes and South bids 3NT. The alertable bid describes the hand perfectly: 13 - 15 HCPs, three of partner's suit and a balanced hand.

West passes and North bids 4♠. With a diamond void and a minimal opener, it is an easy 4♠ bid.

All pass.

East finds the killing lead of the ♣A. Usually leading unsupported aces is a poor lead, but not with this hand. The ♣4 is played from the North hand. As declarer, it is best to play a low card when you want the defense to switch suits.



East is not deterred by the low card played by North so plays another club, giving West a club ruff.



However, the ♠A is East's only entry and West only has one spade left. So, the defense only gets one more trick (♠A).

Marty Bergen says voids are magical. North's diamond void saved the day.

P.S.

I just discovered this fun free BBO tournament, no points. It is located under competitive and free tournaments.

**Host:** BBO  
**Start Time:** 2+ mins  
**Type:** Individual  
**Boards:** 9999  
**Duration:** 25 minutes  
**Scoring:** Total points  
**Movement:** Unlocked  
**Director:** No+Td  
**BBO Points:**  
**Restrictions:**  
**Description:** Free Robot Race

25 minutes. No TD  
Limit 40 registrations

Free. No prizes

How it works:

- It's a robot tournament. But the robots bid and play much faster than they normally do.

- It lasts for 25 minutes. You get to play as many hands as you can in 25 minutes. When the 25 minutes are up, the tournament is over. You don't get to finish the hand you're playing.

- The rankings are based on total net points scored.

- If your robot partner wins the bid. It declares. This is not necessarily a bad thing as the robot will declare faster than you will.

- You are promised the best hand at the table

BBO allows 40 people in the tournament. They seem to always fill up.

I scored 5190 points playing 20 boards, which was good for 9th. There were no makeable slams in my 20 boards.

Some basic strategy:

- Pass out all marginal openings. Time is precious, you don't want to waste it on partials.

- Forget overtricks, and claim ASAP. You want to get on to the next board.

- Unless they're doubled or vulnerable, once you got them set, play as fast as possible. Don't spend the time to try to get them a second undertrick.

- Bid close games. Spend a little extra time to make them.

- Try to have no interruptions as the clock never stops

---

Jeff Kroll is a frequent contributor to the Unit 174 Monthly Newsletter, co-author of the ACBL Bulletin Notes since 2015 as well as a former co-editor of this Newsletter for 3 1/2 years. He also teaches bridge.



BY **THOMAS  
RUSH**

## Useful Obscure Bids - Part II

This article is the second in a series covering bids that don't come up often, but when do occur, they can help you get to the right spot that would be difficult otherwise. The first article covered jumping in the suit that right hand opponent opened (e.g.: 1♣ - 3♣, or 1♠ - 3♠) and how the meaning of your jump is very different depending on whether one of a minor or one of a major was the opening bid!

In Part II, we'll cover a couple of No Trump bids that both involve balancing actions:

1. Opponents open one of a suit, you jump to 2NT in the balancing seat:

1♦ Pass Pass 2NT

2. A NT rebid by opener after an auction like:

1♣ Pass Pass 1♥ or 1♥ Pass Pass DBL  
1NT 1NT

*Let's look at case 1.* If you and your partner have a somewhat standard agreement, you might have a balancing 1NT bid show something like 11-15 HCP, and giving a structure like this in the balancing seat:

11-15 HCP 1NT balancing overcall  
16-18 HCP Double, then bid NT at the lowest level

and that leaves you to come up with a bid to show the uncommon, but important 19-20-point hands (yes, they do come up!). If your agreements says that you double and jump in NT, you'll be in a really bad situation if the auction is something like:

1♥ Pass Pass DBL  
Pass 2♣ Pass ?

Your partner could have a very weak hand without the ability to bid 1S. Do you really want to jump to 3NT with 20 point, when your partner has only a queen or a couple of jacks?

The solution is to define an immediate jump to 2NT by balancer as that 19-21 HCP hand. Advancer (balancer's partner) can then use Stayman or a transfer to get you to the best spot.

What do we give up by defining the balancing 2NT bid as strong? You can no longer use the Unusual 2NT jump bid that rarely occurs. However, the payoff for getting to the right spot when you have a big hand is much better than the payoff for throwing in a destructive bid - especially when you can keep the opponents from finding a better spot just by putting the third pass card on the table (and letting declarer struggle in a one-level contract).

*The second case* is an auction such as:

1♣ Pass Pass 1♥  
1NT

You opened the bidding, heard two passes and then a balancing double or suit bid, and you as opener now bid NT at the cheapest level.

Many players treat the 1NT rebid as a 12-14 HCP balanced hand, but bridge logic tells you that must be wrong. Why? First, you heard your partner's pass which says that partner has less than 6 HCP - and could be flat broke. If you have 12-14, your side has significantly less than half the high cards in the deck. Why are you trying to compete with a flat hand (1NT rebid, remember?) when the opponents outgun you? You are asking to get doubled and go down a significant amount. The flip side is that your expected gain is at best a part score.

The No Trump rebid after left-hand opponent and partner have passed, should be reserved for a hand that is strong enough to be saying, "Partner, I know that you couldn't muster up a response, but I'm strong enough that this might still be our hand." In other words, you have a hand too big to have opened 1NT; you are showing 18-19 HCP hand.

Other agreements are possible; you as opener might want to use this sequence to show certain distributional two-suiters or some other hand type, but if you and a strong partner have not discussed the auction, expecting it to show 18-19 HCP is the percentage bet.

the Unit 174 Board Members. Thomas welcomes questions and comments and would love to hear if you have used one of these obscure bids. Please, send them to:

[PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com)



## From the Editor



Thank you to all of 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](mailto:katmac432@hotmail.com).*

If you would like to have your club information or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment for which you are proud and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and subject title to [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Evvie Gilbert  
Editor  
[unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com)

