

DECEMBER



Unit 174 December 2023 Newsletter



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Contributors

- Jack LaVigne - False Cards**

In Memoriam

From the Editor

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



President's Message

**Karen
Nussbaum**

The Galveston Sectional/ IN regional was great. The only complaints I received were as follows: announcements were hard to hear, (sound familiar?), the dealing machine was too loud, we needed napkins by the water dispensers, no free coffee and no diet soda. I'm calling it a win!

Sadly, we felt it necessary to cancel our upcoming 2024 tournament in Bryan/College Station. The concern is mainly due to the low numbers of players at our Sectional Tournaments. We are working to replace this Tournament for October 2024. Details will be forthcoming.

We are now busy planning our upcoming Lone Star Regional (LSR). It is just around the corner! Jane Armstrong is working on the Event Naming Schedule and some days are already sold out, so contact her for more information. The flyer for this tournament is in this newsletter, on the Unit 174 web page and in the District 16 *Scorecard*.

Hopefully you are finding partners and teams and getting ready for this regional. We are implementing some new ideas and improving some old ones. And we promise to have the comfy chairs we used last year! We hope to see everyone there.

ACBL has added some new information to the ACBL website. It is specifically for newer players, but the info would be helpful for anyone. If you open up the website, sign in and click on the round logo in the upper left corner, a new page will open up. Click on "New to Bridge". ACBL is working hard to give newer players as much information and helpful ideas as possible.

Wishes for a Happy Holidays to everyone and prayers to bring the hostages home safely.

Karen Nussbaum
Karenunit174@gmail.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: Sharon V Chamberlain, Kelly R Henderson, William R Jonson, Susan F Morris, Joshua Roberts

Transfers: Gregory Andrews, Rebecca Cooper-Baker, Ms. Flora G De Bartolo, Mrs. Myrtle P Dean, Lawrence Tetzlaff, Mrs. Roberta Tetzlaff

Welcome!

Rank Advancements



Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of November 1, 2023. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Club Master

Larry Lawhorn, Ms. Jane Martin, Ms. Ellen Singer

Sectional Master

Linda D Hensley, Jan Watson

Regional Master

Teresa Becker, Patricia A Holy, Marci Keller

NABC Master

Mr. Marvin Meistrich

Advanced NABC Master

Kyo Che

Bronze Life Master

Lynn L Hershey, Mrs. Phyllis L Maier

Diamond Life Master

Mrs. Sandra W Clark

PLatinum Life Master

Mr. David P Henke

!!! Congratulations !!!

Member Profile



We have no member profile to end the year but hope to hear about more of our great members next year.

Happy Holidays!



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
Oct 30- Nov 5	Puerto Vallarta	JA	205	Regional	Open
Nov 2-4	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Local
Nov 3-4	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Nov 6-12	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	StaC
Nov 15-18	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
Nov 16-19	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Dec 1-2	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Dec 4-10	STaC U174		174	Sectional	STaC
Dec 4-10	STaC U176, U183, U225, U254		176	Sectional	STaC
Jan 4-7	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
Jan 11-14	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
Jan 13-14	San Antonio	TX	D16	GNT/NAP	2023-2024 Finals
Jan 22-28	Houston	TX	174	Regional	Open
Apr 5-7	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Apr 18-21	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Jun 7-9	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Jun 10-16	D16		All	Sectional	STaC
June 20-23	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Aug 8-11	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Sep 19-22	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Oct 25-27	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Nov 4-10	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	StaC
Nov 14-17	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N

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



Arabia Shriners Houston Designated as the 2024 Unit 174 Charity

By **Nancy Strohmer,**
Charity Chair



This remarkable organization serves children without regard for their ability to pay - taking on the long-term effects of burns and orthopedic issues. They take care of kids until they are 18 yrs. old. Click [here](#) to read about their history of care to burn victims.

The Shriners has a very long history in Houston. They cared for the children who were burned in the historically significant explosion in Texas City that killed over 500 people. The 1947 Texas City disaster was the deadliest industrial accident in U.S. history and one of history's largest non-nuclear explosions.

Arabia Shriners Houston has extended invaluable support and resources to some of our Houston clubs and unit tournaments. It's difficult to fathom the role that the Shriners facility plays in the world of Houston bridge.

By designating Arabia Shriners Houston as the Unit 174 Charity, we can collaborate and harness the strength of the bridge community to raise funds more effectively for this incredibly worthy organization. The ultimate outcome will be a greater contribution to and a stronger, more dynamic

partnership with the Arabia Shriners.

When we play bridge during charity games, we can be assured the money donated will go to a very worthy cause!

2024 Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional

The Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional Jan 22-28, 2024



Be Scent-sitive
*this is a fragrance-free tournament
No offensive odors*

Sunday lunch
provided with
two session entry!



HOUSTON MARRIOTT WESTCHASE
2900 Briarpark Dr., Houston TX 77042
(713) 978-7400
Room Rate: \$129.00
Click here to book your group rate.
Contact Dave Becker if problems occur
Cutoff Date: Jan 5, 2024 or until block filled

Complementary ACBL entry labels
(with your name and ACBL #)
Click here for form to pre-order or email
Susan Banks-Johnson @ sisbjohnson@gmail.com

Best Practices Teacher Workshop
*Registration fee \$50
Certification fee is an optional \$25*

Sat/Sun - Jan 20/21
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
For information or to register
Sarah Springer - (281) 904-5791
sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com

Tournament Chairs
Karen Nussbaum
(832) 524-5233
Karenunit174@gmail.com
Sarah Springer (281) 904-5791 sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com
Dave Becker (214) 274-2978 dbecker03@hotmail.com

Hospitality
Hallie Eads (713) 569-7700 HallieEads@aol.com
Patti Mullendore (713) 467-1026 chmullendore@msn.com

Event Naming
Jane Armstrong (281) 798-3342 littlebit9@comcast.net
Intermediate/Newcomer
Janice Hardcastle (832) 643-1704 janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com

Partnership
Harry Selldin (713) 899-3163 hselldin@me.com
Antoun Henri (832) 659-2310 antounhenri@gmail.com

Cashless Tournament - credit cards only
Purchase in Advance with Entry Express
<https://tournaments.acbl.org>
Table Fees (per session)
Monday thru Friday \$15
Saturday (\$1 for NABC) \$16
Sunday (lunch included w/2 session entry) \$18
\$4 more for lapsed member

 **LSR Speakers** 
Mon-Sat at 2:00

*Please note new schedule change.
1st game will be Monday at 10:00 am.*

Future Life Master Games
(Single session)
299er Pairs
Mon – Sat: 10:00 & 2:30
Sun: 9:30 & TBA
99er Pairs
Tue 10:00 & 2:30
Session and overall awards will be **red** points

0-750 Gold Rush Schedule
(Double session - **Gold & Red** points)
(Single session - **Red** points)
Mon – Sat: 10:00 & 2:30

Pair Games
(Double session unless noted)
MON/WED/FRI – JANUARY 22/24/26
A/X/Y Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
Morning Side Pair Series (Single session*) 10:00
Afternoon Side Pair Series (Single session*) 2:30
Evening Side Pair Series (Single session*) 7:00
TUE/THU/SAT – JANUARY 23/25/27
A/X Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
Mid-flight Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
Morning Side Pair Series (Single session*) 10:00
Afternoon Side Pair Series (Single session*) 2:30
Evening Side Pair Series (Single session*) 7:00
(*These games may be merged into the double session games at the director's discretion, but a player may still choose to play a single session)
SATURDAY – JANUARY 27
LSR On-Line Pairs 10:00 & 2:30
(Instructions on Unit 174 website)
SUNDAY – JANUARY 28
A/X/Y Pairs 9:30 & TBA
Side Pairs (Single sessions*) 9:30 & TBA

Team Games
(Double session)
MON - SAT – JANUARY 22-27
Bracketed Teams 10:00 & 2:30
TUE/WED – JANUARY 23/24
Mini-Soloway (2 day, 4 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30
Handicapped Swiss (2 sessions) 7:00
THU/FRI – JANUARY 25/26
Mini-Soloway (2 day, 4 sessions*) 10:00 & 2:30
(*at director's discretion)
Handicapped Swiss (2 sessions) 7:00
SUNDAY – JANUARY 28
A/X Swiss Teams 9:30 & TBA
Bracketed Teams 9:30 & TBA
(No player with > 3000 MPs)

STRATIFICATION & FLIGHTING
A/X Pairs A: 5000+ X: 0-5000
A/X/Y Pairs A: 5000+ X: 2000-5000 Y: 0-2000
Mid-flight Pairs B: 1500-3000 Y: 0-1500
Gold Rush Pairs C: 300-750 Z: 0-300
Side Pairs A: 3000+ B: 750-3000 C: 0-750
299er A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100
99er A: 50-100 B: 20-50 C: 0-20
Strats may vary at the director's discretion
Bracketed Teams grouped by average MP
A/X Swiss A: 4000+ X: 0-4000
Sunday Bracketed Teams B: 0-3000
No player with > 3000 MPs
Team or pair average used for all stratified events

DAILY START TIMES
Monday - Saturday 10:00 & 2:30 & 7:00
Sunday 9:30 AM & TBA

2024 Houston Unit 174 Online Lone Star Regional Event

Unit 174 will be hosting a two-session ONLINE PAIR GAME Saturday, January 27th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sign up for the game by logging into BBO and registering for the event. Payment will be made with BBO\$ and all players must be in District 16.

2024 Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional Event Naming

LONE STAR REGIONAL EVENT NAMING OPPORTUNITY

JANUARY 2024



The Lone Star Regional provides an excellent opportunity to recognize deserving Unit 174 members or memorialize those who have left us by naming an event after that person.

*Please ask Jane Armstrong for details.
281-798-3342 littlebit9@comcast.net*

*Opportunities are available between \$75 to \$7,500.
(Price list on reverse page)*



2024 Lone Star Regional Naming Event

Sponsor for the Entire Tournament	\$7,500
All games on a day (excluding 0-5 pair games)	\$1,000
Sponsoring promotional gifts for hospitality (with sponsor name on it)	\$1,000
Mini Soloway 2 day teams game	\$400
0-5 Pairs Games (package-includes all)	\$200
Gold Rush Pairs Double-session (Monday thru Saturday at daily rate)	\$200
Mid-Flight double-session Pairs (Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday at daily rate)	\$200
A/X Pairs double-session(Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday)	\$200
A/X/Y Pairs double-session(Wednesday, Friday or Sunday)	\$200
Bracketed Swiss Teams 1 day, 2-session (Monday-Sunday)	\$200
Sunday A/X Swiss	\$200
Charity Fund Pairs single session	\$125
Future Life Master	\$125
Morning/Afternoon/Evening Side Pairs single-session	\$125
Sponsoring Candy for Hospitality per day	\$100
Sunday Side Games single-sessions	\$75

If an entire day is named, then all events on that day will be included along with the Side Games, FLM games, Gold Rush Pairs and Swiss Teams games. Games spanning over two days will not be included in entire day naming.

The 0-5 games package is being offered for all 0-5 games that are not included in another purchase. Purchaser must provide a writeup about the honoree of about 100 words, and a photo. There will be a poster with pictures of the honorees at the game that day, and the writeup and photo will be in that day's bulletin. Sponsoring corporate or other promotional gifts for Tournament Hospitality will be handled on an Individual basis.

Please ask Jane Armstrong for details.
281-798-3342 littlebit9@comcast.net

If you are interested in naming an event, please email [Jane Armstrong](mailto:jane@99er.com).

99er Nite Club



199er Nite Club



Future Life Masters



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

www.flm174.org

Special Club Games

◆ Dec 16th at BCOH 299ers

🎄 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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

◆ Dec 17th at BAWH - FLM 199ers

🎄 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Arabia Shriners 10510 Harwin, Houston
Game at 1:30 PM -> NEW TIME
Snacks & Game \$5.00

STaC Week Dec 4th - 10th

Play for SILVER!

Participating area clubs with I/N games

- 199er CLBC
- 299er BAWH
- 299er BCOH

For our Newest Players...those with fewer than 20 Masterpoints

BBO 'Second Saturday' game & hand review...DEC 9

Players must have an ACBL # linked to their BBO Account
Questions? Contact Sam Khayatt: samkhayatt@outlook.com
Find us on BBO: CHOOSE HOUSTON! FLM 0-20

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**
- All are welcomed! If new to the game, make sure you have your ACBL# linked to your BBO Account
- Questions? Contact MaryEllen Vail: mevail48@gmail.com



Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face and Online. The following information might be interesting:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Table Count</u>	<u>Number of Clubs in Unit 174</u>
2019	32,137.00	30
2020	30,122.50	50
2021	29,241.50	24
2022	19,285.50	24

The 25 clubs in the unit have played a total of 12,807.5 tables since January 1, 2023. The top 20 club table counts are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club - 3497.00 tables
2. Bridge Club of Houston - 2185.00 tables
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston - 2011.50 tables
4. Lone Star Bridge Club - 1272.50 tables
5. Apple II DBC - 900.50 tables
6. Apple DBC - 752.50 tables
7. Star DBC - 626.50 tables
8. Kingwood DBC - 491.50 tables
9. Ft. Bend DBC - 468.00
10. Cypress NW DBC - 385.50 tables
11. Lake Conroe DBC - 331.50 tables
12. Spring Branch Duplicate - 288.50 tables
13. Pebble Creek DBC - 217.00 tables
14. Galveston Unit 174 - 181.00 tables
16. Houston Raquet Club - 177.50 tables
17. Katy Duplicate Bridge - 153.50 tables
18. Forest Club - 137.50 tables
19. Sugar Land Bridge - 137.00 tables
19. Galveston DBC - 137.00 tables

20. La Grange Bridge Club - 123.50 tables

Where will your club rank by the end of 2023?



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.

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 Clubs' Policy:

APPLE clubs' (Susan and Brigitte) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less than 50 points.

APPLE II has raised the offer: Any player who pairs up with someone under 100 points plays for **FREE!** Since many of your FLM's didn't take advantage of playing with a board member, the club is offering **FREE** plays to pairs that average less than 200 points! What a DEAL!

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 [here](#).

Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are allowed. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You are welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.

Apple DBC will be participating in the unit STaC week on December 4th.

There will be a dessert potluck On Monday, December 18th. Bring you favorite holiday treat to share

We will be closed Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st.



Bridge Academy of West Houston



Diamond Life Master party

On Thursday, November 16th, everyone had a great time at the party to celebrate Sandy Clark achieving Diamond Life Master. Congratulations, Sandy!

Sandy Clark
&
Nancy Strohmer

Holiday Party

On Wednesday, December 13th, there will be a Holiday Party. Lunch will be served, and players are encouraged to bring tasty desserts. Find your partner NOW!

Mentor/Mentee

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

December 5th - Mentor/Mentee

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.

Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Teams - Holiday Party

Our Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Team games are held once a month on a Sunday at 1:30 p.m. In December we will also have a Holiday Party.

December 17th - FLM & 8 is enough Swiss Team - Holiday Party

The stratifications are:

- Level 1** - 0-1000 masterpoints (1)
- Level 2** - 1000-3000 masterpoints (2)
- Level 3** - 3000+ masterpoints (3)

For example one Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 players total 8 as would four Level 2 players. Another example would be three Level 2 and one Level 1 players whose team total is 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 a.m. taught by Joe Quinn.

Game Schedule

Note: Starting November 29th the Wednesday and Thursday pair games are swapped.

The Wednesday game will be Open and 299'er pairs and the Thursday game will be invitational pairs.

Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee
Wednesday - Open & 299'er
Thursdays - Invitational
10:30 a.m.

Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams
1:30 p.m.

Arabia Shriner Center
10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$5 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Jennifer Breihan, John Herzer and Tom Jahnke directors

Game Calendar

Tue – Dec 5	STaC	Sun Dec 17	Charity Game
Wed – Dec 6	STaC	Wed – Dec 20	GNT Fund Raiser
Thu – Dec 7	STaC	Thu – Dec 21	Club Championship
Wed – Dec 13	Charity	Wed – Dec 27	Club Game
Thur – Dec 14	Charity	Thu – Dec 28	GNT Fund Raiser

Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 martinsens@comcast.net.



Bridge Club of Houston

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

BCOH: Online Choose Houston - Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m.

BBO - Mentor/Mentee Games: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (**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):

Monday: 11:55 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

******1:00 p.m. Saturday game every weekend******

****Please note the time change.****

Saturday F2F 299er and Open games - check BCOH [website](#) for details each week.

SAVE THE DATES:

8 is Enough Swiss Teams - December 5th and 19th at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

Mentor/Mentee F2F: December 12th at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at judy_n_al@yahoo.com by phone 713-320-5592 for November 14th and Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928. Also contact them with any questions. **** There will *not* be a game on December 26th****

TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson from 9:30-10:10 a.m. Game to follow begins at 10:30 a.m. 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.**

December 8th - Pizza Friday! Enjoy a free pizza lunch

Holiday Party

Saturday December 16th - Tamales will be provided by BCoH. Bring a side or dessert to share. Lunch will be served at noon with the games (**Open and 299r**) to follow at 1:00 p.m.

Become a member at BCOH for \$20. Membership allows you to vote for the 2024 board of directors. You will also pay only \$5 for our four member appreciation games throughout the year. Payment is due by the end of December. You can pay at the club or mail your check to:

Bridge Club of Houston
4688 Louetta Rd, Spring, TX 77388

NEW YEAR'S DAY GAME: Come welcome in the New Year with friends. Ham will be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share. Lunch will be served at noon with game to follow at 1:00 p.m.

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						Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game → FLM 0-20	fim174.org
10:00 AM							
10:10 AM							
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM	FLM 0-50						
	↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh for details						
7:00 PM	Mentor	Open	Open				

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

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



Clear Lake Bridge Club

We have an active month this December. We have our normal game schedule which now features two double-sessions (Open/749) on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons along with our standard fare of Open and I/N games. Check the schedule below:

Weekly Game Schedule:

Open Games: Monday - Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 a.m., Thursday at 2:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

0-299 Games: Monday at 2:00 p.m.

0-199 Games: Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

0-749 Games: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m. December 11th is 8 is enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. We ask that anyone interested in playing in any of the Sunday afternoon Team Games to please register before you come so that the director can have the set up done on time.

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes before the game start times.

Game table fee is \$6.00 for members, \$7.00 for guests.

Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

Sunday and Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - New!

Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

STaC is December 6th - 12th. Come get more silver!

On December 20th, we will be having our Christmas lunch celebration in concert with our Mentor/Mentee game at 2:00 p.m. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

Due to the costs involved, the Mentor/Mentee game is the one game where we do not invite visitors. We certainly appreciate having visitors at any of

the other games!

We have paused our Donuts, Lesson and Bridge programs, which we normally offer on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, for the remainder of the Holiday Season but expect to get that event cranked up again after the first of the year.

After the first of the year, Dave Glandorf will have a new class schedule but it is not ready to go at this time. Anyone interested in contacting Dave about classes can reach him at daveglandorf@pianola-mail.net.

Beginning December 5th, Steve Lowenkron will be attending the games to collect the annual dues which are \$25.

Roinnie Martin
President
713-419-0007
ronniemartin001@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.

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.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Regular games are \$3.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or jwarren760@gmail.com or visit our [website](#).

CLUB OWNER RETIRING - BRIDGE CLUBS FOR SALE

Cypress Northwest DBC
Meets Tuesday and Thursday at Weekley Community Center

Katy DBC
Meets Wednesday at Radack Community Center

Will sell both or separately.
If interested please contact
Jim Warren
832-851-4745
jwarren7602gmail.com



Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club

Open Games Tuesday
Arabia Shrine Center
10510 Harwin Dr.

Houston, TX 77036

Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. Games starts at 10:30 a.m.

Entries are normally \$5.00.

- We use Bridge Mate II Bridge pads.
- At least 36 upgraded games are held each year.
- Hand records are available after every game.
- Our players are a nice balance of friendly A, B and C players.
- Coffee and substantive snacks are provided.
- All games are fully sanctioned by the ACBL.
- Results available immediately.

WE WILL BE OPEN EVERY TUESDAY IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2, 2024.

CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME.

CONTACT:

John Eric Watson

ewat2004@aol.com

832 287 9107



KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games:

Wednesday and Thursday 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 a.m. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

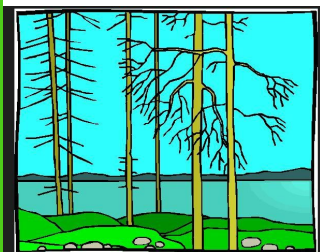
For information, contact any of the following:

Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or jrsimmons2102@gmail.com.

Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or ichibanbill@yahoo.com.

Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570

Or Visit our [website](#).



LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

December 2023

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

We begin playing at 10:30 a.m. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer complimentary snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. Please bring your lunch as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

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, and she will do her best to find you a partner.

Following is what's happening in December:

- December 1 - Education Foundation Game
- December 8 - Unit STaC And Club Christmas Party (RSVP Only)
- December 15 - Club Championship - Complimentary Pizza Lunch
- December 22 - No Game - Christmas Holiday
- December 29 - Goodbye 2023 Party - Salads and More Potluck

We look forward to seeing you on Friday's at LCDBC and invite you to join us at the table for a great day of bridge.

Penny Grassedonio
 Club Manager
 832-361-4577
czthdaypjg@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 a.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. All games are stratified.

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

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

Monday, December 4th - Unit 174 STaC game at 11:45 a.m.

Don't miss the free lesson from Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll starting at 11:00 a.m. Jeff will be discussing the strategies between playing team games with IMP scoring versus Matchpoint® scoring.

We will also be serving cake to celebrate our members with December birthdays!

***** NOTE -- EXTRA GAME! *****

Tuesday, December 5th - Unit 174 STaC game at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 7th - Unit 174 STaC game at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 11th - Club Championship - Special celebration for Bill Gemas, our club's newest DIAMOND LIFE MASTER! Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. and reservations are *REQUIRED*.

Thursday, December 14th - Club Championship - PIZZA will be served for lunch!

Monday, December 18th - Lone Star Bridge Club Annual Christmas Party - Lunch will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Reservations are *REQUIRED*. We will also be having an **Ugly Christmas Sweater** Contest with prizes for the winners! This game will be an *upgraded* Club Championship.

Tuesday, December 19th - No monthly Mentor/Mentee bridge game will be held this month due to the holidays.

Thursday, December 21st - *Upgraded* Club Championship

Monday, December 25th - **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** (club closed)

Thursday, December 28th - *Charity* Club Championship for ACBL

Monday, January 1, 2024 - **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** (club closed)

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, Club Manager at 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 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com or visit our [website](#).



SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE CLUB

Games are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:00 a.m.

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. Totally non-profit in accordance with County rules.

Manager & Director
John Herzer
737-287-7888
johncherzer@gmail.com
[website](#)



STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and are **now \$5** per person.

You must have a partner.

For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com or visit our [website](#).



Contributors



False Cards

BY Jack LaVigne

You are declaring a spade contract and this is your trump suit:

Dummy
♠AKJ5

Declarer
♠9742

The correct play is to cash the ♠A and then finesse the ♠J on the second round. You will make 4 tricks when the ♠Q is onside with a normal 3-2 break.

However, when you cash the ♠A you see the ♠10 drop from your right hand opponent (RHO). This gets you to thinking. Does RHO have the ♠Q10 doubleton? Hmmmm?

You think that a 3-2 break is more likely than a 4-1 break. You decide to play the ♠K and see if the ♠Q drops. Sadly, from your point of view, the ♠Q doesn't show up and your RHO drops the ♠8. Even more sadly, the actual layout of the trump suit is:

	<i>Dummy</i> ♠AKJ5	
<i>LHO</i> ♠Q73		<i>RHO</i> ♠108
	<i>Declarer</i> ♠9642	

What is going on? Why did RHO drop the ♠10 on the first trick?

The answer is that you have just been taken to the cleaners by a false card. Your RHO opponent inferred that his partner might have the ♠Q so to help you go wrong they played the ♠10 on your ♠A.

Should you have hooked it? If you assume that your opponents will play their lowest card, the odds slightly favor dropping the ♠Q doubleton (3.4% for ♠Q10 doubleton, 2.8% for stiff ♠10).

What you must decide is whether your RHO might be trying to trick you or if the ♠10 was a true card.

False cards or devious card play is a fascinating aspect of bridge. The next example comes from Mark Lair of Canyon, Texas. Mark is a brilliant professional player who has experienced thousands of hands and accumulated quite an arsenal of devious card play.

Example 1

False cards can be made by both sides. In this example the bidding was 1N - 3N so you are declaring 3N in a matchpoint event.

<i>Declarer</i> ♠Kxx ♥AK972 ♦Qxx ♣Ax	<i>Dummy</i> ♠xx ♥xx ♦AKJ10xx ♣Qxx
--	--

The opening lead is the ♠Q. Your RHO wins the ♠A and returns a spade. What is your plan? You have ten top tricks: 1 spade, 2 hearts, 6 diamonds and 1 club.

There doesn't appear to be a play that would enable you to garner 11 tricks since if you try to set up the ♣Q, you must lose a club and whatever spades the opponents have left.

Try this. Duck the second spade and win the ♠K at trick three. Run the diamonds and pitch the ♥7 and ♥9 as your first two cards. Finally, pitch a low club on the last diamond. You have a GREAT chance of scoring your ♥2 at trick 13.

Example 2

This tip comes from Dorothy Hayden Truscott from her book *Bid Better, Play Better*.

As declarer if you want the opponent to continue a suit, signal as if you were their partner. That is, play a high spot card if they play standard signals and a low spot if they are playing upside down.

	Dummy	
	♠874	
LHO		RHO
♠KQ109		♠53
	Declarer	
	♠AJ62	

LHO opens the ♠K against your notrump contract. You can see that it will be to your advantage if LHO continues spades. If your opponents are playing standard signals, your RHO will play the ♠3 and you will play the ♠6. LHO sees that the ♠2 is missing and may continue spades playing his partner for the ♠A32.

If the players are using upside down carding your RHO will play the ♠5 on the first trick and you must play the ♠2. LHO sees that the ♠3 and ♠6 are missing and may play his partner for the ♠A65.

Conversely, if you want the opponents to shift, play a low spot card if they play standard signal and a high spot card if they play upside down.

	Dummy	
	♠Q1065	
LHO		RHO
♠AK87		♠43
	Declarer	
	♠J92	

Against your spade contract LHO leads the ♠A and RHO plays the ♠4 (standard signals, hoping for a ruff). Your best chance of enticing LHO to shift is to play the ♠2. This may cause LHO to place the ♠J94 in RHO's hand and shift before setting up the dummy's ♠Q.

If they are playing upside down RHO will play the ♠3 on the first trick and you should play the ♠9. This may fool LHO into thinking that RHO holds the ♠432 and again shift before setting up the dummy's ♠Q.

Summary

False cards or devious card play is a fascinating aspect of bridge. False cards can be made by both the defensive and offensive sides.

One needs to have thought ahead about the potential false card and to have known the opponents carding style ahead of time. False cards should be played at a smooth, even tempo. If you hesitate, the probability of success will diminish. As declarer to entice the opponent to continue or shift, signal as if you were their partner.

Jack LaVigne is a regular contributor to the Unit 174 Newsletter. He is Platinum Life Master, past president of Unit 174, District 16 Recorder and volunteer at the Bridge Academy of West Houston. Jack can be contacted at jacklavigne@att.net.



In Memoriam

-
- * L. W. Laird, Sugar Land
 - * Dr. Dennis Tanner, Texas City

* Life Master



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 Karen Nussbaum, Unit 174 Board President - Karenunit174@gmail.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.

Evvie Gilbert
Editor
unit174news@gmail.com

