



Unit 174 February 2023 Newsletter



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Contributors

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Sam Khayatt and Jeff Kroll - January 2023 ACBL "Bulletin" Notes

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



**Kathy
McDougall**

President's Message

GREAT NEWS: The Lone Star Regional was a huge success! Attendance reached our optimistic prediction of approximately a 50% increase over last year, with an impressive turnout of both local players as well as out-of-towners.

The hotel rooms were booked to capacity and the playing areas were packed with players. People were coming out to play for the first time since Covid and there were many newcomers attending their very first tournament.

FLM table counts were triple what they were last year!

These facts are very encouraging for the future of face-to-face bridge considering the downturn in attendance over the past few years. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this tournament a success!!

We want to ensure that future tournaments are run as smoothly as possible so we encourage you to complete the short survey that was sent via email (fastresults) on Sunday so you can provide the feedback needed to make the necessary improvements.

Our next tournament will be the Election Sectional to be held at the Arabia Shrine Center on April 14th through the 16th. The preliminary [flyer](#) is accessible or can be found on the Unit website.

Please take the time to get to know the candidates that are running for a position on the board and be ready to cast your vote either electronically or at the Sectional prior to each session. The slate of candidates and voting instructions can be found on the Unit website. We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Many thanks!

Kathy McDougall
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: Neil R Anderson, Barbara J Emnet, Alicia A Gott, Larry Lawhorn, Elizabeth Neely, Martha B Stern, Gage Van Horn, Lu Xu

Transfers: Robert S Barnum, Mary C Dusek, Norma J Gilmore

Welcome!



Rank Advancements

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of January 7, 2023. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Kelly Harp, Bjorn Mossberg, Lu Xu

Club Master

Robert Rolnick

Sectional Master

Emilee Ahern, Judi Whaling

Regional Master

Pat Esslinger

NABC Master

Karen Burnley, Elizabeth Gast, Anthony Knistautas, C Jane Lacy, Ken Russell

Life Master

Danuta Parzych

Bronze Life Master

Danuta Parzych, Martha Wallace

Silver Life Master

Irene White

Ruby Life Master

Bharat Shrestha, James Zhan

Gold Life Master

Marilyn Leiman

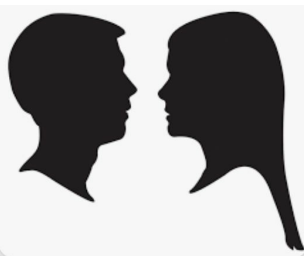
Sapphire Life Master

Linda Rensi, Raleigh Williamson

Emerald Life Master

Bruce Wick

!!! Congratulations !!!



Member Profile



Member Extraordinaire: John Taylor

**BY RONNIE
MARTIN**

After a recent Wednesday morning Open Pairs Game at the Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC), I was able to spend some time speaking with John Taylor.



**Ronnie Martin (Left),
John Taylor (Right).**

John was born on January 4th, 1925 in Saratoga, Texas. He was born into a family with one son (John) and seven daughters.

John spent his preschool and elementary through high school years in Saratoga graduating from Saratoga High School as valedictorian in 1942.

His academic prowess at Saratoga earned him a partial scholarship to Texas A&M where he began his college career. After finishing his first year at Texas A&M, John was drafted into the US Navy in 1943.



John celebrating his 98th Birthday at CLBC Luncheon.

Following boot camp, he was chosen to join the Naval V-12 program which trained enlisted men to become officers. John began his V-12 training at Tulane University in New Orleans. But, after one year at Tulane, John was sent to Harvard University where he was assigned to Advanced Naval Training. He was commissioned into the Navy as a 20-year-old Ensign in 1945.

After serving in the Navy at Subic Bay in the Philippines as a paymaster, he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946. After his discharge, John went back to Tulane to finish his degree and graduated from Tulane with a BBA in 1947.

John's first job as a college graduate was with Shell Oil Company in downtown Houston. Soon after, he moved to Mississippi and went into private business.

In 1959 John moved to Pasadena, Texas and began working for Lubrizol where he retired in 1990.

John married Theresa Poythress in 1954 and they raised three daughters. He and Theresa were married for 60 years until her death in 2014.

At the age of 50 when John wasn't working, raising daughters and playing bridge, he started painting after taking some classes.



John with one of his pieces that hangs at the CLBC.

Ronnie Martin is President of the Clear Lake Bridge Club.



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
Feb. 4-5	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Feb. 9 - 12	Ajijic	JA	205	Sectional	Open
Feb. 10-12	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
Feb. 16-19	Spring (Houston)	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Feb. 21-24	Puerto Vallarta	JA	205	Sectional	Open
Feb. 22-25	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
Feb. 27 – March 5	San Miguel de Allende	GJ	173	Regional	Open
Mar 9-11, 2023	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Open
Mar 22-25, 2023	Dallas	TX	206	Sectional	Open
Mar 24-25, 2023	Dallas	TX	0	GNT/NAP	GNT District Final
Mar 29-Apr 1, 2023	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open

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

199er Nite Club

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



Future Life Masters



Future Life Masters of Unit 174

Visit our website!

www.flm174.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

FLM 199er Sundays

February 5th at Shriners

NEW

NEW START TIME is 1:00

Singletons welcome! Partners provided!

\$5.00 18-Board Game

Covid Vax required

499 Non Life Master (NLM) Sectional Tournament

Hosted by BCOH

FEB 16-19

Silver Points awarded!

The 'C Strat' is planned for 0-100 Masterpoint players

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

0-20er FLM 2nd Saturdays at 9:00 AM **FEB 11**

0-49er FLM Tuesdays at 3:05 PM

0-49er D16 Mondays at 4:00 PM

0-300 CHOOSE HOUSTON Weekdays at 10 AM

Unit's 2023 Charity



Unit 174 designated Houston Food Bank as its 2020, 2021 and 2022 Charity Organization Nominations for HFB came from Trish Freeman, Evvie Gilbert, Robin Ladin and James Sells



A check in the amount of \$2,264 was presented to the

Houston Food Bank at the Lone Star Regional. Pictured are Nancy Strohmer-U174 Charity Chair, Sean Crowl-Houston Food Bank, Karen Nussbaum, U174 Vice President and Brigitte Sandifer-Houston Food Bank Star Supporter.

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

You can contribute to charity by playing in the upcoming CHARITY games in March:

- March 22, 24, 29 and 31: Houston Food Bank
- March 20 and 23: ACBL Charity Foundation
- March 27 and 30: ACBL Grass Roots Fund

Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. - **Kathy Calvin**

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 1327 tables were played among 20 clubs during January 2023.



In Memoriam

Bill Kiehnhoff
Robert (Bob) Lester
Theron Lindsay
Bill Kiehnhoff



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.

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 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.

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

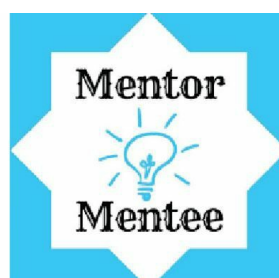
Results and additional information [here](#).

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
♣♥ West Houston

Bridge Academy of West Houston

Mentor/Mentee



The Bridge Academy of West Houston is excited to announce a monthly Mentor/Mentee game on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30. The first game is Tuesday, Feb 14th.

If you would like to participate, you can sign-up online by clicking [here](#).

Mentees must have fewer than 300 masterpoints. Anyone with over 300 masterpoints, a love for the game and willingness to play is asked to sign up as a Mentor.

Swiss Team



The Bridge Academy of West Houston is proud to announce a new Swiss Team game. The game will be held once a month on a Sunday at 1:00 pm. The first game is on March 19th. Subsequent monthly games will be announced.

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

Wed – Feb 1	Educational Foundation	Tue – Feb 14	Educational Foundation
Thu – Feb 2	Educational Foundation	Wed – Feb 15	Educational Foundation
Sun – Feb 5	Future Life Masters	Thu – Feb 16	Educational Foundation
Wed – Jan 11	Junior Fund	Wed – Feb 22	Educational Foundation
Thu – Jan 12	Junior Fund	Thu – Feb 23	Educational Foundation

Note the new starting time (1:00 p.m.) for the Future Life Master.

Need a Partner?

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

Bridge Club of Houston

BCOH: 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:minkins@swbell.net).

BCOH Open Games (Face-2-Face): *Pre-registration is not required for our weekly scheduled games.

Monday: 11:55am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30am

SAVE THE DATES:

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

Mentor/Mentee F2F: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Sign up at the club or contact Judy Cupps: judy_n_al@yahoo.com by phone 713-320-5592. Or Bob Zeigler at 713-829-6928 with any questions.

Saturday F2F “Points and Potluck”

February 4th - earn 50/50 Red and Black and 81% extra points

February 11th - upgraded Club Championship 81% extra points

Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share! Lunch will be at 11:00am with open game to follow at noon.

Our next **499er/NLM Tournament** is on February 16th- 19th. Check the [website](#) for brochure information.

The 2023 BCOH Board of Directors

Returning to the BOD for a 3-year term are: Janice Hardcastle, Mike Linkins and Charles Woody. A big thank you to outgoing member Hugh Miller for his contribution to BCOH over his term on the board.

Elected officers are: Michael Linkins, President; Debbie Nash, Vice President; Kathy L’Hommedieu, Treasurer; Bill Farrar, Secretary. Remaining boards members are Marsha Boyer, Janice Hardcastle, Joanna Heebner, Charles Woody and Bob Ziegler. This board looks forward to working hard and continuing to create a friendly place for all to play bridge.

TUESDAY TIDBITS

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

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

CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE - BBO ONLINE GAMES

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

Playing online? CHOOSE HOUSTON!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 AM	<i>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>					FLM 0-20	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM	300er						
10:10 AM	Open						
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM		FLM 0-50					
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh for details</i>						
7:00 PM	Mentor	Open		Open			

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



Clear Lake Bridge Club

We have a big month coming up this February. An advancement party will be held before our annual meeting on February 18th. Following the annual meeting will be our regularly-scheduled Saturday game.

The festivities will kick off with a light breakfast at 10:30 AM followed by the advancement party. We have several members who have advanced since our last party. Rick Stell, in particular, will be celebrated as a **Diamond Life Master**. Lunch will be served between the advancement party and the annual meeting.

If you cannot attend the annual meetings, proxies are available at the director's desk.

Our regular game schedule is outlined on the [website](#).

The monthly **Breakfast, Lesson and Bridge** is on

Wednesday, February 8th starting at 9:00.

Eight is Enough* team game is scheduled for Sunday, February 12th at 1:00 PM and our **Mentor/Mentee Game*** will be on Wednesday, February 15th at 2:00 PM.

Dave Glandorf revised his schedule so that classes will start on February 2nd with January 24th the deadline for a discounted enrollment fee.

Dues are still be collected: \$20/year. If you plan on playing regularly at CLBC, the dues are a good deal because the table fee is lowered from \$6 to \$5.

Ronnie Martin
President

P.S.

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

*Pre-registration is required.



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 or visit our [website](#).



Club

PLAY LIVE IN PERSON BRIDGE

OPEN GAME TUESDAY MORNINGS

WE START AT OR BEFORE 9:30

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9:15 or 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 \$6.00

ERIC WATSON
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107

**JACKS CONFERENCE CENTER
3232 AUSTIN PARKWAY
SUGAR LAND, TX 77479**



KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

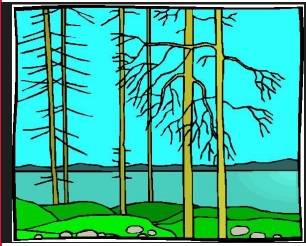
Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club has added a second game on Thursday starting September 8!

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.
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

February 2023

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so all first time 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 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 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 for a partner.

Following is what's happening in February. On February 10th, we show appreciation to our players with a pizza lunch. Our February Birthday celebration will be held on the last Friday, February 24th.

The calendar of games is as follows for January:

- February 3rd - Educational Foundation Game
- February 10th - Educational Foundation Game - Pizza Lunch
- February 17th - Educational Foundation Game
- February 24th - Educational Foundation Game - February Birthday Cake

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

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 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](#).

Games are on Mondays at Noon and Thursdays at 10:30 am. All games are stratified.

Proof of Covid vaccination is required, and masks are optional.

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

Our games are always \$5.00.

Bridge 102 - Competitive Bidding classes taught by Linda Sutton will begin on Tuesday, January 10th and continue on Jan 24, Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 14 and Feb 28. The third Tuesday - February 21st is reserved for our monthly Mentor/Mentee Bridge game. To enroll please contact Linda at 936-443-3600 or by email at : lindasutton0212@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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



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 or visit our [website](#).



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
[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 or visit our [website](#).



Contributors



BY SAM
KHAYATT
and
JEFF KROLL

January 2023 ACBL *Bulletin* Notes

The following list identifies the articles that we believe will most benefit our readers.

- - “Ruling the Game” by Matt Koltnow (p. 38). The new convention card has an error. “The box for Gerber after suits should be **RED**. If Gerber is used outside of a notrump sequence (opening notrump or opener’s rebid of notrump) or immediately after a notrump bid, it is “**Alertable**”.
 - “The Bidding Box” moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (Lair/Passell) (p. 43). After a 3♣ response to his 2♣ opening bid, Lair bids 3NT despite holding five spades to the AK. This bid was intelligent, as it gave Passell room to make a good bid. If Lair had bid spades, Passell could be in an awkward position. The 3♣ bid shows a long, strong club suit; Passell is unlikely to hold the stoppers to bid 3NT if he cannot support spades.
 - “It’s Your Call” by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 2 (p.42). In the uncontested auction 1♦ – 1♥ | 3♦ – 3♠, it is important to know what 3♠ means. Most panelists play it as asking for a stopper in spades.
 - “Card Play 101” by Phillip Alder (p. 48). Sometimes it is necessary to trump your partner’s winner to ensure that you set the contract.
 - “Parrish the Thought: Leading after preempting” by Adam Parrish (p. 49). “Don’t preempt and then lead a doubleton.” This practice is a good general agreement to have with partner. It ensures that when a preemptor leads a suit other than his/her own, partner knows what to do.
 - “Reasoning with Robert: Overcalls opposite a passed hand” by Robert S. Todd (p. 50). Overcall more aggressively when partner is a passed hand, particularly if your suit is spades. A 1♠ bid can be very obstructive. A previously-passing partner is unlikely to raise the bid too high.
 - “Challenge of the Month” (p. 54). Use the auction to determine the best line of play. When an opponent makes a first-position weak-two bid, that bid almost always shows a six-card suit.
 - “Chalk Talk” by Eddie Kantar (p 57).
 - Deal 1: Playing IMPs, if you need an opponent to hold a specific card (the ♥K in this case), play the hand as if it is held by that opponent.
 - Deal 2: Making this hand requires a strip and end play.
 - “Test Your Play” by Eddie Kantar (P. 63).
 - Deal 1: Play for split honors.
 - Deal 2: All the losers are in the trump suit. Run the long diamond suit to limit the defense to just three spades.
-

Our Favorites

♠ KQJ43 ♥ 43 ♦ 743 ♣ A109			
♠ A10872 ♥ 972 ♦ 6 ♣ 7654	N W - E S	♠ 965 ♥ 8 ♦ KQJ1098 ♣ J32	
♠ — ♥ AKQJ1065 ♦ A52 ♣ KQ8			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	5♣	2♦	4♥
All Pass		Pass	6♥

When an East opens the bidding 2♦, that bid normally shows a six-card suit.

West leads the ♦6. Since East preempted 2♦ and North/South hold six diamonds, the ♦6 is almost guaranteed to be a singleton.

South wins the ace and pulls three rounds of trump. West started with three trump and East started with one. This shape is usual. Four cards, typically split 3-1 and the

opponent (East) with the long suit is likely to have fewer cards in other suits.

To make this hand Declarer needs to discard a diamond on a spade. The best chance of making this contract is to play West for the ♠A – which is likely as East preempted diamonds. South assumes at this point that West holds only black cards: the diamond was a singleton and all the trump have been drawn.

South plays the ♣K and overtakes it in dummy with the ace. Next, South plays the ♠K from dummy and pitches a diamond. West wins with the ♠A and must play either a spade or a club.

If West plays a spade, the ♠Q is played from dummy and South can pitch the last diamond.

If West plays a club, South will play the ♣10 from dummy. East will cover with the ♣J. South will win the ♣Q, which establishes the ♣9 as an entry to dummy and now South can play dummy's ♠Q.

“Test Your Play” by Eddie Kantar, Deal 2 (p. 63)

♠ A543 ♥ A8632 ♦ Q4 ♣ KJ			
♠ KQ102 ♥ QJ109 ♦ 72 ♣ 1054	N W - E S	♠ 9 ♥ K75 ♦ 865 ♣ Q98762	
♠ J876 ♥ 4 ♦ AKJ1093 ♣ A3			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	1♠

North/South start with only three losers – all in the trump suit – and can only lose those tricks to make the contract.

West leads the ♥Q.

North needs to protect against losing control of the hand if spades are split 4-1.

North wins the ♥A and then plays a small spade to dummy's ♠A. When both West and East follow

suit, North can breathe easier.

With three outstanding spades losers – the three losers counted when the plan was made, the contract is home free. North cashes the winners, allowing the opponents take their three spades whenever they want.

Maybe this deal did not need to be in the advanced player section?

Sam Khayatt and Jeff Kroll are frequent contributors to the Unit 174 Monthly Newsletter, co-authors of the ACBL Bulletin Notes since 2015 as well as a former co-editors of this Newsletter for 3 1/2 years. Sam is also the District 16 Intermediate / Newcomer Coordinator. Both Sam and Jeff also teach bridge.



Reading the Auction to Determine the Line of Play

BY SAM KHAYATT

D 12		N Robot ♠AQ10 ♥A104 ♦J642 ♣Q107	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	Pass	1♦	2♠	5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH												
Pass	1♦	2♠	5♦												
Pass	Pass	Pass													
W Robot ♠KQ832 ♥103 ♣K86432	S texashen ♠9632 ♥5 ♦AKQ87 ♣AJ5	E Robot ♠KJ8754 ♥J976 ♦95 ♣9													

5♦ North
NS: 0
EW: 0

West	North	East	South	Comments
	1♦	2♠	5♦	1♦ Standard. 2♠ Weak jump-overcall, showing <u>six</u> 5♦ 3♠ was considered, asking for a spade stop, but the singleton ♥5 convinced South to bid what should make.

Strip and End Play

A strip-and-end-play is a standard device used by declarer to force defenders either to play a card that gives declarer a ruff and a sluff or to lead into a tenace. The “strip” part is declarer removing all the safe exit cards from the defenders. The “end play” part is the defender winning a trick and having to lead a card that is favorable for declarer. An end play is sometimes called a “throw-in” play.

On this board, East bid, forcing a favorable lead at trick ten.

The Play

Robot games are human-declare games. Even if the robot names the suit first, the human at the table plays the hand.

East led the ♣9. Given the 2♠ preempt, it is unlikely that East is leading from the ♣K. And it is likely that the ♣9 is a singleton. So, declarer (North) hopped up with the ♣A.

Based on the auction, West must be void in spades. All 13 spades are accounted for in the other hands: East has six (for the preempt) and four are in South's hand leaving three in North's hand. Without the preempt North would plan to finesse twice in spades, hoping that West has at least one of the missing honors. With the information from the preempt, that was not a realistic option.

North pulled trump, led a heart to the ♥A, ruffed a heart, and threw in West with the ♣K.

West exited with a club, won in the North hand. Another heart ruff gets back to the South (dummy) hand.

A spade was led to the ♠Q, losing to the ♠K. We knew East would win. Now the contract is secure; East must give us two spade tricks or a ruff and a sluff:

- If East leads a spade, North scores both the ♠A and the ♠T in the North hand.
- If East leads a heart, it is ruffed in the South hand and the ♠T is pitched from the North hand.

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following details:

- Score:** 12
- Contract:** 5♦ North, NS: 7, EW: 2
- West (Robot):** ♠A10, ♥K3, ♦42, ♣4
- North (Robot):** ♠A10, ♥J6, ♣3, ♠Q, ♠K, ♠2
- East (Robot):** ♠J74, ♥9, ♦9, ♣9
- South (texashen):** ♠963, ♥Q, ♦Q, ♣Q

The bidding sequence is: WEST Pass, NORTH 1♦, EAST 2♠, SOUTH 5♦. All other players passed.

Weak Two-Bids and Four-Card Majors

Jeff Kroll and I are fans of the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin* columnist Jerry Helms. Two of his “Jerryisms” are:

1. Look for a reason to bid and not an excuse to pass.

2. Make the bid that best describes your hand.

So, we agree with East's 2♠ bid. Preempts are most effective when they are made as early as possible. Yes, we will miss a heart fit some of the time. But four hearts to the ♥J9 is not a great suit, and East wants to clog the auction as much as possible after partner has passed. East is reasonably sure that NS has a vulnerable game and East would like a spade lead on defense (course that's not happening on this deal). If the hearts or the hand were good enough, we would make a takeout double.

Sam Khayatt 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. She is also the District 16 Intermediate / Newcomer Coordinator. Sam also teaches bridge.



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.

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