



Unit 174 January 2023 Newsletter



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



President's Message

Unit 174 President's Message - January

I hope the Holiday Season was good to everyone and that your new year is off to a good start!

The Lone Star Regional is fast approaching!

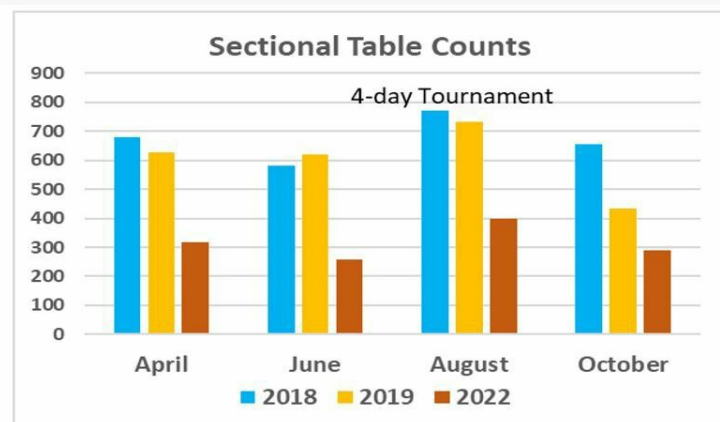
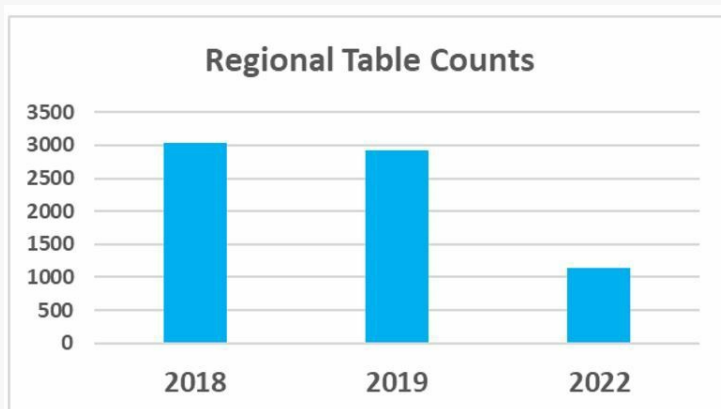
First and foremost, the Lone Star Regional is a few weeks away and we have a great tournament lined up with lots of opportunities to earn those **GOLD** points!! We are hopeful for a good turnout this year and encourage you to spread the word so we can get back to increasing attendance trends. Whether you are brand new to the game or you've been playing your whole life, this tournament is for you. It doesn't matter if you have 0 master points or 80,000, a great tournament awaits you.

The Marriott Westchase is the place, and, hold on to your hats: **THERE WILL BE NEW CHAIRS!!!**

Check the [Unit Website](#) for updates about our schedule of speakers (great line-up planned!) and the [Flyer](#) for more tournament details. We encourage advance entry purchase to avoid registration lines. This feature is available through the ACBL's new Entry Express system which can be accessed through acbl.org/entry-express.com. Until further notice, ACBL Covid policies remain in place as per the Centers for Disease Control guidelines. The ACBL still requires all attendees and staff to be vaccinated. Check the Unit website for any updates and read the new protocols in the Unit News section of this newsletter.

Where are we with Face-To-Face?

As you know, ACBL tournament turnout has seen an overall sharp decline in attendance since Covid, as can be seen in the charts below for Houston's Lone Star Regional (LSR) and Sectional table counts. This reduction has posed a tremendous challenge for the Board of Directors whose functions have had to shift to address unprecedented changes both during and post-pandemic.



What is the Board doing to recruit/retain members?

- Future Life Masters (FLM) - This program is led by several dedicated volunteers who have been working diligently to promote bridge and assist new and beginner players to master the game. They have been successful with Bridge Base Online (BBO) games and Face-to-Face (F2F) monthly games on Sundays at Shriners with increasing turnout. Visit the [FLM website](#) or find the link from the Unit's Homepage (see link above) to learn more about FLM, including a current list of teachers and their classes, and much more.
- Tournaments - With five tournaments a year and diminished attendance, we've had to renegotiate hotel contracts and try to

implement other cost-saving measures to preserve the working capital of the unit board. We are dedicated to continuing to provide exciting tournament opportunities for our Unit members as well as ACBL-wide. I am writing this missive from the Kansas City Holiday Regional, a popular and successful tournament in Overland Park, Kansas. I have been traveling to other tournaments to find out how other Units are faring and to get ideas to improve our unit's tournaments. We are also urging everyone we meet to join us in Houston at the LSR.

- Retiree Task force - This task force is a recruitment initiative that the Board plans to undertake in between tournament planning. It will target local corporate alumni networks and university alumni organizations. We are looking for volunteers to join the task force and assist the board with this endeavor. Please contact Charles Dalton (dalton@uh.edu) or me if you are interested in helping, or if you have ideas which can help us target other groups who may be interested in our fascinating game.
- Education - We had a great opportunity to welcome twenty or more middle-schoolers to play in our LSR tournament as a part of a "mini-course" offered by the school district. Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled due to ACBL Covid restrictions. We hope to explore these types of opportunities as soon as protocols are lifted. Other ACBL programs underway, including BridgeWhiz and Boost, are very encouraging and we hope that we will gain new players in the near future.
- What you can do - Invite your friends and neighbors to learn to play and join our community. If you have friends who are playing online, urge them to come out to the tournaments. Come to the tournaments early and often. Support your local bridge clubs by attending the games—the more tables at the games, the more people will want to come. Give us your ideas, and volunteer to help us implement them.

On behalf of the Unit 174 Board of Directors, I wish everyone a very Happy New Year, filled with health and happiness, as well as lots of successful bridge games.

Kathy McDougall
katmac432@hotmail.com



**New Members, Rank
Advancements and
Member News**



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: Stephan M Kaufman, Margret Kerstann, Bjorn Mossberg, Audrey C Vinyard

Transfers: Mrs Myrtle P Dean, Mrs Katherine Fouts, Dr Paul M Horvitz, Al Crump Madison, Teresa J McNeil, Jack R Mills, Mrs Mae V ONeil, Lawrence Tetzlaff, Mrs Roberta Tetzlaff

Welcome!



RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of December 7, 2022. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Stephen Kaufman

Club Master

Cherie Baer, Kyo Chen, Kathy Galt, Judy Grimm, Rafik Hammami, Amy Hart,
Linda Hensley, Karel Kriel, Dale Punshon

Sectional Master

Chuck Drinnan, Ruth Gilman, Marci Keller, Edward Massin

Regional Master

Richard Barski, Bill Brady, Maureen Mallory, Zane O'Keefe, Kathryn Phillips

NABC Master

Joy Pruett

Advanced NABC Master

Corbin Shouse

Life Master

Renata Frutiger, Lee Ned

Bronze Life Master

Sarah Springer

Silver Life Master

Susan Domsalla, Claudia Parr

Ruby Life Master

Linda Drake, Phyllis Kuchta, Rupa Shah, Cheri Staples

Sapphire Life Master

Bill Gervais, Faye Vincent

Diamond Life Master

Mimi Hagedorn

Platinum Life Master

Jeff McKee

!!! Congratulations !!!



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

The Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional - January

23rd - 29th, 2023

Guest Speaker Lineup

Day	Speaker(s)
Monday	Patti Tucker
Tuesday	Bob Morris
Wednesday	Eddie Wold & Mike Passell - "Believe it or Not" Bridge Stories
Thursday	Jacob Morgan
Friday	Daniel Korbel
Saturday	Gary King

Tournament details can be seen by clicking on the [flyer](#).

Below, you can read about what some of the planned Regional Events mean.



Lone Star Regional

January 23 – 29, 2023



What is a Mini-Soloway KO?

The Mini-Soloway KO is a four-session two-day event with all teams guaranteed two sessions of play on the first day.

- Day 1 is run as a 2-session Swiss/Round Robin depending on the number of teams entered in this event.
- The top 4 teams will advance to the KO phase on Day 2 for the semi-finals and finals.
- The top qualifier will select either the 3rd or 4th place team as their semi-final opponent for the morning session. Play continues in the afternoon to determine 1st and 2nd as well as 3rd and 4th place.

LSR 2023 – Mini-Soloway KO Conditions of Contest

The field will consist of the top bracket equivalent of the regular Bracketed Swiss Events beginning on Tuesday and Thursday. Thus, any team with a masterpoint (MP) average of 12,000 or higher will fall into this bracket and automatically placed into the Mini Soloway.

Teams with a MP average of 12,000 or higher may not play in the Bracketed Swiss on Tuesday or Thursday.

Teams with less than an average of 12,000 may request to participate in the Mini-Soloway KO if they so wish.

The Director-in-Charge may create bracketing for this event if necessary based on MP average. Teams competing understand that this is a 2-day 4-session event.

As only the top 4 teams of a Mini-Soloway bracket will move forward to day 2 of this event, all other teams will be eligible to play in the Swiss Team games the 2nd day.

Mini-Soloway KO Schedule

Our Mini-Soloway KOs will be held twice:

Tuesday-Wednesday (10am & 2:30pm) and Thursday-Friday (10am & 2:30pm)

ACBL COVID Protocols for National, Regional and Sectional Tournaments

EFFECTIVE December 30, 2022

Based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the following will be in effect:

1. VACCINATION: All staff, players and volunteers must have been vaccinated no less than 14 days prior to the event in which the player wishes to purchase an entry. (While the ACBL does not require booster shots, the CDC highly recommends the latest booster shots.) Unless prohibited by law, each player must provide proof of vaccination to the Event Safety Coordinator or a member of their staff. In areas or locations where requiring proof of vaccination is prohibited by law, the event sponsor must put in place other precautions, such as mandatory rapid COVID testing and mask requirements. Please check with the Tournament Chair for any changes or updates to this policy.

2. MASKING: Masks are optional. Players, staff and volunteers are advised to check the COVID-19 Community Level rate as determined by the CDC or a similar metric from a local health agency in making their decision on masking. Masking is recommended if an attendee is at high risk for severe illness or otherwise is a member of a vulnerable population.

If a masked partnership requests that each of their opponents wear masks, those opponents are expected to comply. This ACBL policy does not countermand any ordinance or law in effect at the site of the tournament.

3. HAND SANITIZER: Hand sanitizer must be readily available inside the playing area.

4. EVENT SAFETY COORDINATOR: Each tournament sponsor must provide a designated Event Safety Coordinator, who will be available to review proof of vaccinations, provide masks, etc.

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

JAN 8th at Shriners

NEW

NEW START TIME is 1:00

Singletons welcome! Partners provided!

\$5.00 18-Board Game

Covid Vax required

FLM Day at 2023 Lone Star Regional

Tues, Jan 24th

One Free Play for 99ers!

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

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 2022 & 2023 Charity

In 2020 and 2021, Unit 174 had no charity games because of the pandemic. In 2022, the [Houston Food Bank](#) was nominated by several members and became the Unit's 2022 Charity. Houston Food Bank will continue to be U174's Charity for 2023 as it is such a worthy organization.

Speaking about our Charity, it is very noteworthy to recognize, **Bridgette Sandifer**, Apple II Club Manager. Bridgette recently donated \$1200.00 to Unit 174's 2022 Charity. She stated, "Instead of giving a holiday party this year, I decided to give the money normally spent on a party to the charity chosen by Unit 174 ". She also gave

the proceeds from "Virtual Games - Support Your Club" to charity throughout the pandemic and continues to do so quarterly. Brigitte's contribution will be a huge addition to the check that the Unit presents to the Houston Food Bank at the Lone Star Regional on Thursday, January 26, 2023.



Unit 174's 2023 Charity games will be held on **March 20, 22, 23 and 24** and will be offered by many of the Clubs. This means that you can play in club games and win additional masterpoints while supporting games that raise funds for the Houston Food Bank (U174's 2023 Charity) and the ACBL Charity Foundation.

Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face and Online. The following table lists the numbers of tables for each of our clubs from highest to lowest.

2022 Table Counts

Rank	Club	City	Tables
1	Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)	Spring	5317.50
2	Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)	Houston	5198
3	Bridge Academy of West Houston	Houston	1152.50
4	Apple DBC	Houston	1088

5	Lone Star Bridge Club	Conroe	1080
6	Apple II DBC	Houston	1008
7	Star DBC	College Station	692.50
8	Spring Branch Duplicate	Houston	637
9	Cypress Northwest Duplicate Club	Cypress	468
10	Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge	Sugar Land	393
11	Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club	Kingwood	376
12	Lake Conroe DBC	Montgomery	293
13	Pebble Creek Dup Bridge Club	College Station	231.50
14	Unit 174	Galveston	207
15	Katy Duplicate Bridge	Houston	191
16	Forest Club	Houston	158
17	Houston Racquet Club	Houston	161.50
18	Gulf Coast DBC	Lake Jackson	139
19	Galveston DBC	Galveston	119
20	River Oaks Country Club	Houston	114
21	La Grange Bridge Club	La Grange	95.50

22	Les Match Bridgeurs	Houston	90
23	Lakeside Country Club	Houston	89
24	KT Bridge Club	Katy	16



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 31st 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

Apple I (Mondays at Tracy Gee Community Center) will will be closed January 1st, 2nd, and 16th, 2023.

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.

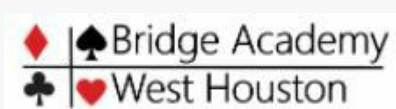
For information, please contact:

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 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 AM. The first game is Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

If you want to participate, a sign-up sheet is near the registration desk. 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 Swiss Team game. The game is held once a month on a Sunday at 1:00 PM. The first game is on March 19, 2023. Subsequent monthly games will be announced.

Mini-lesson

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

Game Schedule

Wednesdays - Invitational
Thursdays - Open & 299'er
10:30 AM

Sunday - Future Life Masters

1:00 PM

**Arabia Shriners
10510 Harwin Dr.**

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

Game Calendar

Wed – Jan 4	Junior Fund	Wed – Jan 18	Junior Fund
Thu – Jan 5	Junior Fund	Thu – Jan 19	Junior Fund
Sun – Jan 8	Future Life Masters	Thu – Jan 26	Closed Regional
Wed – Jan 11	Junior Fund	Wed – Jan 25	Closed Regional
Thu – Jan 12	Junior Fund		

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

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

BRIDGE  HOUSTON

Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON (BCOH)

www.BridgeWebs.com/bcoh (Check for frequent updates and information)

BCOH **Online Choose Houston**

Mentor/Mentee Games: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00pm
(Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: mlinkins@swbell.net

BCOH Open Games (**Face 2 Face**)

*pre-registration **is not** required for our weekly scheduled games

Monday: 11:55am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30am

SAVE THE DATES:

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

Mentor/Mentee F2F – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Sign up at the club or contact **Judy Cupps** with any questions @ judy_n_al@yahoo.com or call 713-320-5592.

****Extra Extra**** January 31st there will be a second F2F Mentor /Mentee - Sign up at club or contact Bob Ziegler@ 713-829-6928 with ant questions

Saturday F2F – Please check BCOH website for details for our monthly games

January 14th – Election results for 2023 BOD. Potluck lunch at 11:00 with open game to follow at noon.

December 31st – New Year's Eve and Life Master celebration for Twyla and Charles Woody. Chicken Pot Pie will be served. Please bring side dish or dessert to share. Lunch at 11:00 with open game to begin at noon.

Our next 499er/NLM Tournament is on February 16th- 19th

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

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							Open
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM		FLM 0-50					
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh for details</i>						
7:00 PM	Mentor	Open		Open			

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



CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB

January is another fairly full month for Clear Lake Bridge Club! In addition to our [regular game schedule](#), we have an Eight is Enough Swiss game on Sunday afternoon, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:00. Preregistration is required.

We will also have our monthly Bridge, Breakfast and Lesson on Wednesday, Jan 11. The breakfast starts at 9:00 am.

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game on Wednesday, Jan 18, 2023. Again, registration is required.

And, lets not forget, our regularly scheduled games include: one(1) 199er and 299er each and two (2) 749er games per week with Open Games every day but Thursday.

Dave Glandorf is starting a new schedule of classes on January 8, 2023. The [Class Schedule and Handbook](#) explains what is being taught in each class and the level of players for which the classes are intended.

The Club is still collecting dues from members which are \$20 annually. And, if you join the club, the table fee becomes \$5 instead

of \$6.

We will be closed Jan 23-29, 2023 for the Lone Star Regional.

See you there!

Ronnie Martin
President

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 or visit our [website](#).

FORT BEND DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB - SUGARLAND

PLAY LIVE IN PERSON BRIDGE

OPEN GAME TUESDAY MORNINGS

Please arrive by 9:15!

We start promptly at 9:30

- 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 & UPGRADED GAMES ARE \$6.00

ERIC WATSON
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107

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

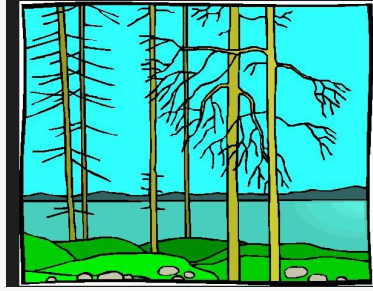
KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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

Happy New Year to All,

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 tea for those who want it. 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. Easy access from Hwy 105 into the parking lot exists.

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

Beginning in January 2023, we have two (2) special events planned:

- January 13th - we show appreciation to our members with a pizza lunch.
- January 27th - we will honor all the January Birthday members and celebrate with birthday cake!

The calendar of games is as follows for January:

- January 6th - Junior Fund Game
- January 13th - Junior Fund Game
- January 20th - Junior Fund Game
- January 27th - Junior Fund Game

We welcome you to the New Year 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.

Our Christmas party on December 19th was a great success with 16 tables in play and great food! Golden Age Master Certificates from the ACBL were presented to our members Helen Schwisow, Maureen Mallory and Brenda Walker.

The next quarterly Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th, immediately after the bridge game. Everyone is invited to attend. Plans will be finalized for our Lone Star Bridge Club ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY WHICH WILL BE THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 TH, 2023.

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 Tuesdays - January 17th and February 21st are reserved for our monthly Mentor/Mentee Bridge game. To enroll please contact Linda at 936-443-3600 or by email at : lindasutton0212@gmail.com.

Jeff Kroll will continue with his classes on the first Monday of each month. His January 2nd class is a continuation of the classes which explain the new convention card. This class covers:

1. Basic Lebensohl when your right hand opponent interferes with partner's 1NT opener.
2. Doubles that sound the same or similar but have vastly different meanings.

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



When it Doesn't Add Up

BY **THOMAS RUSH**

This hand is from a regional-rated Open Pairs game at the recent ACBL Nationals held in Phoenix. It features thinking that most experts do, and I am learning to do better. My partner was Tom Fogarty from Chicago, and we ended up with two good sessions to win the event.

On board 10, you sit South with both sides vulnerable, East deals. You hold:

♠T5 ♥AQT852 ♦J ♣KQT8

The auction starts out:

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
2NT	?		

The first thing to discuss is what's going on. West is an experienced tournament player; East is much less experienced in the open pair competition level. Give West an opening hand for the vulnerable 2-level overcall and give East about 10 points.

It seems like it could be dangerous to come in at this point since East may have five hearts with all the missing spots, so South chose to pass. Others might choose to take a different call here, but South is worried about where the spades are located, as well as the chance that partner (North) may be close to broke and then run into a buzz saw.

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	?		

West thought for longer than usual and was clearly uncomfortable with the choices before making the 3♦ call. What is West's hand?

Sitting South, I reasoned that West must not have a very good diamond suit with a good hand, or would have raised 2NT to 3NT – wouldn't you? Therefore, West has either minimum values or bad diamonds. West is also probably very short in hearts, else would have let partner (East) take a shot at taking eight tricks in No Trump.

The auction just doesn't add up as a simple East/West 3♦-making kind of hand, right? Now I think that my partner has some values, and probably some diamond values sitting over West. I am not going to be happy with +100 for 3♦ off one, so I trot out a somewhat risky re-opening double.

If partner (North) has the hand I think he has, he'll convert it to penalties. If he bids 3♥, I will pass and try to make it. If he bids 3♠, I will bid 4♣ and hope to find a fit (but... partner did not originally make a negative double call over the 2♦ bid, so I do not think he has four spades), and if I hear 4♣, I'll pass and I don't think partner will be disappointed in my hand.

The auction concludes:

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	DbI	All Pass	

The full board:

Dlr: E **10**
 Vul: Both ♠ 7 6 3 2
 ♥ 7
 6 ♦ A Q 5 2
 14 8 ♣ 9 7 4 3

12

♠ A K Q	♠ J 9 8 4
♥ J	♥ K 9 6 4 3
♦ K 10 9 8 6 4	♦ 7 3
♣ J 5 2	♣ A 6

♠ 10 5
 ♥ A Q 10 8 5 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ K Q 10 8

With a heart lead (7, 3, Q, J), good defense, and a declarer slip, the contract was set two tricks for +500, which was beaten by only one pair in the field – 37 out of 38 possible matchpoints. +200 would have been almost as good, 35 matchpoints.

The point is to be aware of auctions that “*don’t quite add up*”, and to be aware of what the opponents are inadvertently telling you through their mannerisms. You might be able to pick up useful information that leads you to the winning call!

NOTE: The laws of bridge explicitly forbid you to take any inference from your partner’s mannerism, tone, tempo, expression, etc. If you do not look at partner, you will be less tempted! You are also not allowed to attempt to deceive the opponents through anything but the bid you make or the card you play – avoid grins, grimaces, frets, and groans. You *are* allowed to take inferences from your opponents’ mannerisms, but you do so at your own risk. On this hand, had I misinterpreted West’s struggle after his partner’s 2NT bid, I would have had no recourse, but I got lucky(?) and guessed right. You, too, can develop this skill the experts call “table feel” and begin to use it to your advantage.

Thomas Rush is a frequent contributor to the Unit 174 Monthly Newsletter as well as one of the Unit 174 Board Members. Thomas welcomes questions and comments. Please, send them to:
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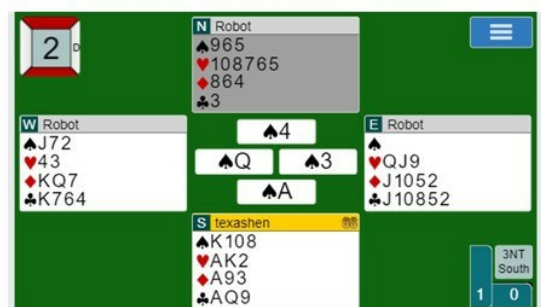
North: Pass

This Pass is difficult. Normally with a 5-card major North would transfer partner into the 5-card major and then next bid notrump to allow partner to choose between the major and notrump. However, that type of bidding is awkward on this hand, as North would bid 4♦, South would bid 4♥ and North would bid 4NT. Now South would be choosing between 4NT and 5♥ - not a good choice. As a practical matter unless you are playing with an established partnership the 4NT bid could be misinterpreted as some form of Blackwood.

So, North is best either passing like it did, or transferring to hearts and hoping South has 3 of them. Either choice is acceptable, but my choice is to transfer to 4♥ and leave it there. The North hand looks to be of little use in any contract but hearts. And my old partner always told me to be an optimist.

But...I am in 3NT.

West leads the Queen of spades.



I suspect that the lead is from the QJ and seems likely that West has 4 spades for that lead against notrump. I win the ace and give thanks that I didn't get a diamond lead.

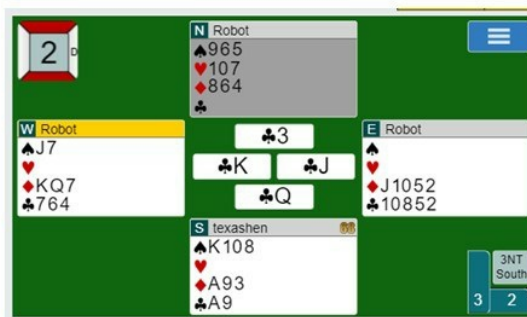
Now I pray that the QJ of hearts are doubleton. I play the AK of hearts, They're not. Rats!



I can't score 9 tricks without dummy's hearts so I play my last heart to East's Queen. I hope to reach dummy with the 9 of spades. Maybe North knew the 9 of spades would be an entry to the hearts - probably not.



East wins the Queen of hearts and makes the normal lead of the J♣, I play the Q♣ which loses to the K♣. Guess the AQ♣ were only worth 4 points on this deal.



Now it's my lucky day when West returns a club instead of a diamond. Defense is hard.



My 9 of clubs is now good! I play the K♠ and then the 10♠ letting West have its J♠ but that is all for the defense. I win the return and take the remaining tricks. Taking:

- 3 Spades
- 4 Hearts
- 1 Diamond
- 1 Club

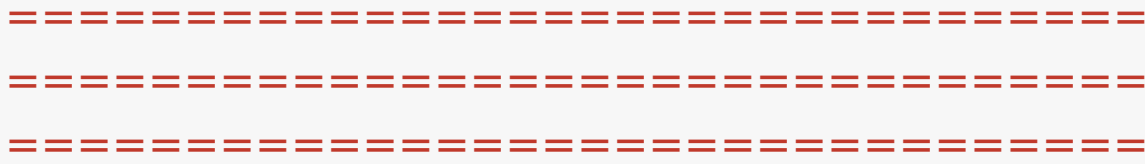
Bonus question: West can set the contract by leading the K♦ and then the Q♦. I would duck twice. I would win the third diamond lead. When East gets in with the Q♥, East cashes another diamond. So, the defense scores:

- 1 Spade

3 Diamond
1 Heart
5 tricks - down one.

A second way exists where the defense can set the contract. Check out the screen shots (above) to see the play where the defense made a choice that helped me *before* continuing to read.

Come on now... No Cheating!



When I played a heart to East's Queen, West had to make an uncomfortable discard. West discarded the 2♠. A better choice would have been a club (not the King).

If West had kept the 2♠, West could let me win the K♠, 10♠. Saved the protected J♠ for my 8♠ (The only entry to dummy).

In conclusion, my partner chose better than I would have. A 4♥ contract is hopeless. It likely loses:

1 Spade
1 Heart
2 Diamonds
1 Club

The most common score was 3♥ down 1. I would likely have been in 4♥ down 2.

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.



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.

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.

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