



Unit 174 July 2023 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

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New Members and Rank Advancements

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Club News *Apple Clubs* *Bridge Academy of West Houston* *Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)* *Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule* *Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)* *Cypress Northwest DBC & Katy DBC* *Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club - Sugar Land* *Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club* *Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club (LCDBC)* *Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC)* *Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club* *Spring Branch Duplicate Bridge Club* *Star Duplicate Bridge Club*

Contributors *Thomas Rush - Useful Obscure Bids - Part III*

In Memoriam

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



**Karen
Nussbaum**

President's Message

Unit 174 held its Early Summer Sectional on June 9-11. Although table counts were higher than last year's June Sectional, the turnout was low.

Several things need to be considered as we move forward. Our fixed expenses are high although nothing we do is extravagant but; things are expensive. To compensate for the low attendance at our tournaments, we have put some cost-cutting actions in effect. We have eliminated the complimentary Sunday lunch, and the Daughters of the Nile are now making \$10 lunches available for each day of our Sectionals. They are also making the coffee every day as well, which saves us several hundred dollars in additional caddy fees. We eliminated the daily snacks we previously provided. We have a great facility for our Sectionals at the Arabia Shriner Center as well as a symbiotic relationship with their organization, which makes us comfortable.

Our Awesome August Sectional will be from Thursday August 11 through Sunday August 13. It is both an open sectional and an I/N regional. The October Sectional will also be an open sectional and an I/N regional. This means **GOLD** points for all non-life masters!

The one item at the top of the list is: how do we get everyone to attend? We have lowered the price of table fees, and we can offer free plays for those who have not been to one of our tournaments post pandemic. As yet, none of these incentives seem to entice our larger Unit 174 membership to attend. We could change the sectionals to start a day earlier in the week and eliminate the Sunday games. That would mean the April, June and October Sectionals would run from Thursday through Saturday. The August Sectional, which is 4 days, would run from Wednesday through Saturday. The downside of taking this step is that it hurts people who work or attend school during the week. There are only a few weekend club games in Houston, so eliminating Sundays would give this group even less opportunity for a f2f game.

My final thoughts are about the upcoming Fall Sectional, which will be held at Moody Gardens in Galveston from Friday, October 27 through Sunday, October 29. Because the last tournament held there in 2019 was successful, it was rebooked for 2023. Part of the success was due to several large donations that helped considerably. It was also pre-pandemic. Post-pandemic tournaments seem to have a whole new set of rules. We are trying to figure them out! The Unit 174 Board of Directors is hard at work to make all these events successful and fun for all. We are not asking for donations - we just want participation! We welcome all suggestions and ideas!

Karen Nussbaum
Karenenuss@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: George W Brewer, Mary Gregory, Jacqueline Sayles, Mary Walt

Transfers: We had no members transfer this month.

Welcome!



Rank Advancements

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

Junior Master

Alan K Churchill, Bob Driskell, Robert Krusemark, Sandy Krusemark, Carolyn H Skonberg, Maudella G Ulmer

Club Master

Steve Broderick, Kelly Harp, Joanne Hogarth, Therese A Tilley, Sally E Ward, Lu Xu

Sectional Master

Thomas Dilger, Ms Greta Etnyre, Amy S Hart, Abbas A Kapasi, Terrence J McMahon

Regional Master

Robert C Domsalla, Carolyn A Hardy, Mr. Robert D Lane, Mr. Thomas M O'Donnell

NABC Master

Mrs. Kathy F Dickson, Pam A Geishauser, Susan L Hanna

Advanced NABC Master

Ms. Cheryl D Benash, Mrs. Joy Cowan, Mike Cowan, Cindy Hempel, Don J Hempel, Mrs. Mary T Vagnoni

Life Master

Mrs. Nancy L Beard, Mrs. Carolyn B Clapp, Mrs. Shirley A Duple, Julie B Harrell, Laura L Hayes, Mrs. Cindy A Skeels, Ms. Ann Trammell

Bronze Life Master

Mrs. Nancy L Beard, Mrs Shirley A Duple, Mrs. Dorothy P Roper

Silver Life Master

Mrs. Genie F Hayden

Sapphire Life Master

Mrs. Sally Sekac

Emerald Life Master

Gil Micheletti

!!! Congratulations !!!

Member Profile



Independence Day

According to the Library of Congress, on **July 4**, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain. The Constitution provides the legal and governmental framework for the United States, however, the Declaration, with its eloquent assertion "all Men are created equal," is equally beloved by the American people.

Philadelphians marked the first anniversary of American independence with a spontaneous celebration, which is described in a letter by John Adams to his daughter, Abigail. However, observing Independence Day only became commonplace after the War of 1812. Soon, events such as groundbreaking ceremonies for the Erie Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were scheduled to coincide with July 4th festivities.

In 1859, the Banneker Institute of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, urged African Americans to celebrate Independence Day while bearing witness to the inconsistencies between the ideals espoused in the Declaration of Independence and the practice of slavery. Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Jacob C. White Jr., also promised his audience a brighter future:

“We have learned by experience and by the comparison of ourselves with people similarly situated, to hope that, at some day not very far in futurity, our grievances will be redressed, that our long lost rights will be restored to us, and that, in the full stature of men, we will stand up, and with our once cruel opponents and oppressors rejoice in the Declaration of our common country, and hail with them the approach of the glorious natal day of the Great Republic.”

By the 1870s, the Fourth of July was the most important secular holiday on the calendar. Congress passed a law making Independence Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1870. Even far-flung communities on the western frontier managed to congregate on Independence Day.



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

| Date | City | State | Unit | Category | Type |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------|------|-----------|-------------|
| Jul 3-9 | San Antonio | TX | 172 | Regional | Open |
| Jul 27-29 | Tyler | TX | 225 | Regional | I/N |
| July 27-29 | Tyler | TX | 225 | Sectional | Open |
| Aug 5-6 | Austin | TX | 207 | Sectional | I/N |
| Aug 10-13 | Houston | TX | 174 | Regional | I/N |
| Aug 10-13 | Houston | TX | 174 | Sectional | Open |
| Aug 17-19 | Beaumont | TX | 201 | Sectional | I/N |
| Aug 24-27 | Mexico City | DF | 173 | Sectional | Local |
| Aug 30- Sep 4 | Richardson | TX | 176 | Regional | Open |
| Sep 7-10 | New <u>Braulfels</u> | TX | 172 | Regional | I/N |
| Sep 7-10 | New <u>Braulfels</u> | TX | 172 | Sectional | Open |
| Sep 13-15 | Denton | TX | 183 | Sectional | I/N |
| Sep 21-24 | Houston | TX | 174 | Sectional | I/N |
| Sep 21-24 | Austin | TX | 207 | Sectional | Open |
| Oct 27-29 | Houston | TX | 174 | Regional | I/N |
| Oct 27-29 | Houston | TX | 174 | Sectional | Open |
| Nov 6-12 | Houston | TX | 174 | Sectional | <u>STaC</u> |
| Nov 16-19 | Spring [Houston] | TX | 174 | Sectional | I/N |
| Dec 4-10 | Houston | TX | 174 | Sectional | <u>STaC</u> |

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

I/N NonLife Master Regional & Awesome August Sectional



Houston Unit 174

I/N NonLife Master Regional (Gold/Red) &

Awesome August Sectional (Silver)

Aug 10th - Aug 13th



ARABIA SHRINE CENTER

10510 Harwin Dr,
Houston, TX 77036



\$10 lunches will be available all 4 days

Stratification

Open Pairs

A:3000+ X:750-3000 Y:0-750

Gold Rush Pairs

A:750-500 B: 200-500 D:0-200

Side Pairs

A:1500-3000 B: 750-1500 D:0-750

Bracketed Swiss

Brackets of 7-9 teams



Playing Schedule

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Aug 10-12

Stratified Open Pairs* 10 & 2:30

Gold Rush Pairs* 10 & 2:30

**Players may play one or both sessions*

Side Game (single session) 10 & 2:30

Bracketed Swiss 10 & 2:30

Sunday, Aug 13

Stratified Open Pairs (single session) 10 & TBD

Bracketed Swiss 10 & TBD

Gold Rush Swiss 10 & TBD

Table Fees per Session

All Days: \$15 (\$4 more for lapsed members)

Table Fees are cashless (credit card only)

Be Scent-sitive

this is a fragrance-free tournament

No offensive odors

TOWNEPLACE SUITES by Marriott

10610 Westpark Dr, Houston, TX 77042

Call and ask for Anthony Imes to get 15% discount

(713) 893-1638

Tournament Chairs

Sarah Springer

(281) 904 - 5791

sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com

Siraj Jiwani

idontplayalot174@gmail.com

(832) 724-7466

Partnerships

Paddy Fiorino

(713) 417-5985

paddyfiorino@yahoo.com

I/N Chair

Maria Turner

(832) 633-9433

jturner102@att.net

Hospitality/Awards

Hallie Eads

(713) 569-7700

hallieeads@aol.com



Guest Speakers - 2:00 Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Thursday: Joyce Ryan

Tell Me What I'll Say

Friday: Vinh Tran

Spiral Raises

Saturday: Gary King

What Now?

99er Nite Club

THE 99ER NITE CLUB

GREAT PLAY, LESSONS & LOADS OF FUN!

And...It's Only for You, New Players!

District 16 now has a BBO game just for the 0 to 99 player—
the "99er Nite Club"!

When: 6pm, 7 days a week
Where: Your Online Club*

Perks:

- ✓ More Masterpoints (cross club scoring)
- ✓ Mini-Lessons by Lynn Berg at 5:30 pm

*Check to make sure your club is participating. If your club has questions they should contact Nancy Strohmer at: nastrohmer@yahoo.com

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 Strohmmer for details:
nastrohmmer@yahoo.com*

New Game in Town



Future Life Masters



 **Future Life Masters of Unit 174**
www.flm174.org

Special Club Games

- ♦ **July 15th at BCOH 299ers**
4688 Louetta Rd, Spring
Potluck Lunch at 11:00/Game at Noon
Lunch & Game \$10.00
- ♦ **July 23rd at BAWH FLM 199ers**
Arabia Shriners 10510 Harwin, Houston
Game at 1:00PM
Snacks & Game \$5.00

FLM welcomes singletons...Partners provided!

 **Apple welcoming
beginning bridge players every day!**
Mondays & Fridays at 11:30
Tracy Gee Community Center

Embracing the energy of our newest players, Apple will allow **FREE PLAYS** to everyone who plays with someone with less than 50 masterpoints!
THAT'S RIGHT:
Both Play Free...We hope our regulars bring out our Newer Players!

Regular Club Games

Face-to-Face

- 199er Games**
 - Clear Lake Bridge Club WEDNESDAYS at 2:00 PM
- 299er Games**
 - Clear Lake Bridge Club MONDAYS at 2:00 PM
 - Bridge Academy of West Houston THURSDAYS at 10:30

Online at BBO

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



Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face and Online. 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 8481 tables since January 1, 2023. The top five club table counts are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club - 2073.5 tables
2. Bridge Club of Houston - 1299.5 tables
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston - 1139.5 tables
4. Lone Star Bridge Club - 700 tables
5. Apple II DBC - 504

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.

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

Apple Clubs

Our games begin at 11:30 am sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15. All games at \$3/person.

New 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 pts.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson
sisbjohnson@gmail.com - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer
Dan Morse Tribute Game and Luncheon will be held on Friday, June 2.
sandiferdb@gmail.com - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information [here](#).

Per the ACBL recommendations the COVID vaccination requirement is lifted. 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.

Mentor/Mentee

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

However, this is July 4 so we will hold it on:

July 11 - Mentor/Mentee - Second Tuesday in July

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

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

8 is enough Swiss Teams

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

The stratifications are:

Level 1 - 0-1000 masterpoints (1)

Level 2 - 1000-3000 masterpoints (2)

Level 3 - 3000+ masterpoints (3)

The members of the team must have a team total of eight or less. 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.

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 & Swiss Teams
1:00 p.m.

Arabia Shriners Center
10510 Harwin Dr.

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

Game Calendar

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Wed – Jul 5 | Charity Game | Wed – Jul 19 | NAP |
| Thu – Jul 6 | Charity Game | Thu – Jul 20 | NAP |
| Tue – Jul 11 | Charity Game | Sun – Jul 23 | NAP/Longest Day |
| Wed – Jul 12 | NAP | Wed – Jul 26 | Club Championship |
| Thu – Jul 13 | NAP | Thu – Jul 27 | Club Championship |

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  HOUSTON

Bridge Club of Houston

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

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

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.

***** Proof of Covid vaccine is no longer required to play at BCOH *****

BCOH Open Games (Face-2-Face):

Monday: 11:55 a.m.

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

SAVE THE DATES:

Open Swiss Teams – July 18 at 10:30 a.m. ([Register at the club.](#))

Mentor/Mentee F2F: July 11 and July 25 at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at judy_n_al@yahoo.com by phone 713-320-5592 for July 11th and Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928 for July 25th. Also contact them with any questions.

July 21 - PIZZA FRIDAY Open game at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a free pizza lunch.

July 4th Hot Diggity Dog Celebration - 299r and Open game. Hot dogs will be provided. Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share! Games start at 10:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon.

******1:00 p.m. Saturday game every weekend******
******Please note the time change.******

July 1, 8, 22 and 29 - Open game at 1:00 p.m.

July 15- 299r and Open game at 1:00 p.m. “Colored points will be awarded.” This game follows a potluck lunch. Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share! Lunch will be at 12:00 noon. Both games to follow at 1:00 p.m.

TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher, and 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.***

Thank You to *Dolores Aquino* for her hard work on BCOH’s Longest Day to support Alzheimer’s. Also thank you to those players that donated their time in “play with a pro”. All money raised from that as well all table fees were donated to the great cause.

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 | | | | | | | |
| 10:10 AM | | | | | | | |
| 11:50 AM | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | | FLM 0-50 | |
| 3:05 PM | | | | | | | |
| | <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.

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Clear Lake Bridge Club

Weekly Game Schedule:

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

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

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

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

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

Second Sunday is Eight is Enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints.

Game table fee is \$5.00 for members, \$6.00 for guests.

Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Wednesday, July 19 is the Mentor/Mentee Game at 2:00 p.m. This game is reserved for members only. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

The Longest Day on June 21 was a big success. The club had 17 tables for the morning game and 12 tables for the afternoon. The membership was very generous so the initial amount raised is: \$6600.00. We are expecting more to come in from several members who were out of town.

Last year the club raised \$6700.00, which placed us 30th in the United States among ACBL clubs.

Up Coming Classes:

Beginner Bridge:

Mondays July 17 - October 16 (no classes on September 4)

Afternoon Session: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Evening Session : 6:45 - 9:45 p.m.

Tuition Cost and Materials: \$210.00

Bidding:

1: Tuesdays, July 18 - October 10, 9:00 - 12:00 a.m. Tuition Cost and Materials: \$210.00.

2: Thursdays, July 20 - October 12, 9:00 - 12:00 a.m. Tuition Cost and Materials: \$208.00.

Beginner Practice:

Thursdays, July 20 - October 12, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tuition Cost and Materials: \$196.00.

2/1 Game Force:

Tuesdays, July 18 - September 19, 6:45 - 9:45 p.m. Tuition Cost and Materials: \$170.00.

Card Play Part B:

Fridays, July 21 - September 13 (no classes on August 11 and September 22), 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tuition Cost and Materials: \$133.00.

For more information about all of the classes, please refer to the [2023 Course Hanbook](#).

Bobbie Moutz
2nd Vice President
281-546-9199
natcolemmed@comcast.net

P.S.

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



CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY DBC

Cypress NW DBC meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, Tx, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30, with sign-up beginning at 11:00.

Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.

Katy DBC meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00, and the game begins at 11:30. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Regular games are \$3.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or jwarren760@gmail.com 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

New Game Mondays in Greatwood

Please Arrive by 9:15 a.m. to start at 9:30 a.m.
Community Center
COMMUNITY CENTER
7225 Greadwood Parkway
Sugar Land, TX 77479

The club is open on Monday Holidays.

Game time will change to 10:30 a.m. beginning July 3.
Entries are \$6.00.

We will participate in the Summer Instant Matchpoint game on Monday July 10.

Game time is 1:00 p.m. Please arrive by 12:45 p.m. 1.0 Gold point to 1st place at each club is awarded.

New Location for Tuesday Game

Arabia Shrine Center

10510 Harwin Dr.

Houston, TX 77036

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

FOR ALL GAME AND LOCATIONS:

- 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.

CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME.

CONTACT:

John Eric Watson
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107



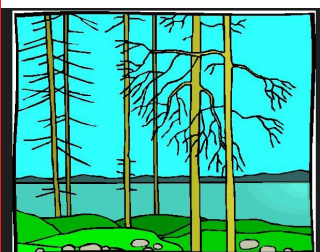
KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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

Both games (Wednesday and Thursday) start at 10:00 am at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345.
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

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

Following is what's happening in July:

July 7 - North American Pairs
July 14 - Club Championship - June/July Birthday Recognition
July 21 - North American Pairs
July 28 - Educational Foundation - Pizza Lunch

The road construction on Hwy 105 has finally become bearable. However, there might still be some delays. I really appreciate all of you hanging in there with us to play on Friday through all that mess. You are very appreciated. We invite 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 Global Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our [website](#).

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

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

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

We are proud to announce that our fundraiser auction for The Longest Day on June 22 was a success with \$1290.00 pledged. Additional donations should raise our total to well over \$1700.00. A big thank you to all of the volunteers and winning bidders.

Please join us on Monday, July 3rd for our annual 4th of July luncheon. The club will be providing hot dogs and all the trimmings. We ask that players contribute side dishes and desserts. The game will begin at 11:45 a.m. We plan to start serving at 11:00 a.m. *This game is a North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying game.*

Additional opportunities to qualify for NAP are scheduled for July 6, July 24, and July 27.

The free lesson with Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll has been moved to Monday, July 10th at 11:00 a.m. Following Jeff's lesson, we will be hosting the ACBL Summer Digital Instant Matchpoint Game. This game is an opportunity to win one **GOLD** point for finishing first in your direction!

Due to the St Paul Methodist's Church hosting a Vacation Bible School August 1- 4, *several changes were made to our August calendar.* On Thursday, August 3, our regular game will be at Pedro's restaurant, 2101 W.

Davis Street, in Conroe. The doors will open at 10:00 a.m. and the game will begin at 10:30 a.m. Due to limited space, we will be asking for players to sign up ahead of time.

The next set of Intermediate Bridge lessons scheduled to begin on August 1st, have again had to be rescheduled. The lessons will start on Tuesday, August 29. Classes will be from 10:00 a.m. - Noon, followed by supervised play. The cost is \$5.00 per lesson, or \$25.00 for all six if paid at the first class date. For more information, please contact the instructor, Linda Sutton at 936-443-3600, or by email - lindasutton212@gmail.com. Class dates are consecutive Tuesdays August 29th, September 5th, 12th, 26th, October 3rd and 10th (September 19th is designated for the monthly Mentee/Mentor game.)

Our Mentee/Mentor game is the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The next scheduled dates are July 18th and August 15th. Please contact our new coordinator Anita Rothfuss if you would like to play as a Mentor or a Mentee. Mentees will pay a \$5 entry fee and Mentors play for free. All games award ACBL masterpoints. A sign-up list to play is also available at the club. You can reach Anita at 936-537-5039 or by email at: larryandanita@gmail.com

Please join us for FREE Pizza on the second Thursday of every month.

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

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 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 10:30.

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

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

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

STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



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

We participated in the ACBL Longest Day fundraiser. As of Monday, June 21, we have raised \$3400. Please see all of our College Station participants below:



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 **THOMAS RUSH**

Useful Obscure Bids - Part III

This is the third article in a series where I'm taking a brief look at some unusual or rare calls in bridge. While the sequence in today's article doesn't come up often, it's an important one to discuss, because the opportunity for a top score is huge, with low risk. I will be presenting what I believe to be the "standard" meanings, but each partnership should need to discuss the sequences to ensure they are on the same page; other interpretations are

possible. Today's topic is one of the more common of our "unusual obscure" bids.

First, the question. (*Write down your answer now, and then compare it after reading this article.*)

You are playing at a regional tournament in an open pairs event. The opponents are vulnerable and you and your partner are not vulnerable. It is your deal. You hold ♠AQJ74 ♥94 ♦AT93 ♣92. Your style makes this a perfectly normal 1♠ opening, and you make that call. The auction proceeds:

1♠ - X - XX - P
??

What's your call?

Their Takeout Double affects our auctions

Partner opens the bidding, and there is a takeout double to your right. What do your calls mean? More than perhaps any other call, that takeout double allows you to make a significant change to your bidding structure to reach the best contract.

Fairly "standard" meanings after the opponent makes a takeout double in front of you are listed below:

- Redouble: Used by almost any 10+ HCP. With use of the Jordan convention, it may imply no fit for partner's suit.
- 2NT: NOT 10-12 HCP balanced; with that we redouble. The Jordan or Truscott convention uses 2NT as the bid to show a limit raise or better for partner. Some require a 4-card fit for the major, others only three. Some use Jordan only over major suit openings. This decision is your and your partner's choice, and the system card lets you show your agreement.
- Pass: Nothing to say.
- 1-level suit bids: much as if there had been no interference; it is forcing one round. It's probably best not to bid bad 4-card suits since RHO has announced length and strength in the unbid suits.
- 1NT: Balanced, something like a good seven to a bad 10 HCP.
- 2/1: NOT a game force! In fact, not even strong! Since we'd redouble with 10+ HCP, a 2/1 is a **non-forcing** change of suit with at least five card length.
- 2 of partner's suit: Standard single raise; strength may be a bit lower than normal.
- 3 of partner's suit: preemptive, four cards if a major, five if partner opened a minor. You have the single raise and 2NT to show a limit raise or better.
- Other jumps in a suit: preemptive, length and strength of suit a function of your vulnerability.

Most of the above options are probably familiar to you. If you don't know Jordan, you can do some research online (and discuss with your partners before playing it!). But a lot fewer know how to use and exploit the redouble, so I'll discuss it here.

The Redouble

(Note: I am only discussing redouble in this article after partner opens one of a suit. When the auction goes 1NT - X - XX, or after 1(suit) - P - P - X, you're in a totally different universe, and other rules and inferences apply!)

We have already mentioned how after an auction like 1-of-a-suit - Double, responder's call of **redouble** shows some 10 or more high card points, and especially if you play Jordan, implies no fit for opener's suit. If your LHO (fourth hand) passes, what is opener supposed to do?

Here are some general considerations:

1. We've announced that we have more than half the strength (partner's 12+ and our 10+).
2. We've said we don't have a fit for partner's opening suit.
3. The opponents may be in trouble, and we are looking for the chance to double them, particularly when the opponents are vulnerable.
4. Therefore, we should not
 - a. bid in direct seat unless we are doubling opponents.
 - b. pass in balancing seat, instead double or bid on if we don't have a penalty double.
5. 4a and 4b are often summarized as, "Opponents cannot play undoubled below 2NT".
6. The one exception is when opener has opened a hand unsuitable for defense: Typically a hand with extra length in the suit and light on HCP. In this case, opener *does not pass at the second bid*.

Example:

♠AQJxxxx ♥x ♦QJx ♣xx

1♠ - X - XX - 2♥
 ?? With this hand opener should rebid spades rather than pass the 2♥ bid. With all normal opening bids, the opener passes unless holding a penalty double of 4th hand's bid.
 7. An important inference: Opener can show hands with extra strength

by

passing at the second turn, and then bidding strongly later. Responder must be alert for this. If opener has a weak hand for defense opener bids at the second turn to show it. If opener passes at the second turn and bids something unexpected later, opener's hand is strong and thinks your side will score better playing the hand rather than defending.

Let's look at some example auctions:

1♦ - X - XX - 2♣
 P Opener has a normal hand. Strength could be 12 - 20 HCP. Opener does not have a hand to double (penalty) 2♣.

1♥ - X - XX - P
 P Opener has a normal hand and is waiting to see where the opponents scramble.

1♠ - X - XX - 2♣
 2♦ Opener has a distributional hand with less defense than partner expects, say, ♠AQJxxx ♥x ♦QJxxx ♣x, and doesn't want to sit for a double of 2♣.

1♠ - X - XX - 2♣
 X Opener has a hand with defense against their club suit contract such as ♠KQTxxx ♥Ax ♦xx ♣KJxx, and doubles to confirm that opponents are in trouble.

1♥ - X - XX - P
 P - 2♣ - P - P
 ?? Responder can't double 2♣; but opener in pass out seat *cannot pass* 2♣. Rather, opener must double 2♣ with a suitable hand (3+ decent clubs), or make whatever call the hand suggests if unable to double. The pass by responder *does not limit the hand*. Opener's side could have a game!

There are other auctions possible, but the main points to remember are that the redouble sets up an auction where we look for the chance to double the opponents for penalty. Be careful to weigh your offensive vs. defensive prospects especially when your side likely has a game and you are vulnerable, but in my experience (especially as people are making many more off-shape takeout doubles now, and may not have 4-4 or 5-3 fits), there are opportunities for big penalties if you work with your partner on auctions with redoubles of a takeout double.

Here's a hand that came up in a Flight A open pairs event recently where the doubler was a top-rated pro:

The Answer

You are playing at a regional tournament in an open pairs event. The opponents are vulnerable and you and your partner are not vulnerable. It is your deal. You hold ♠AQJ74 ♥94 ♦AT93 ♣92. Your style makes this a perfectly normal 1♠ opening, and you make that call. The auction proceeds:

1♠ - X - XX - P
 ?? What would you have done before this article?
 What's your call now?

This is a normal opening bid with 2.5 quick tricks, and lots of tens and nines, which help whichever side holds them. I see no reason *not to pass* and let the opponents try to scramble for whatever they can. If we can double for penalties at this vulnerability, even down two beats any game we can make.

| | | |
|------------|----------|---------|
| | Doubler | |
| | ♠95 | |
| | ♥AQ53 | |
| | ♦7542 | |
| | ♣AJ6 | |
| Opener (D) | | Partner |
| ♠AQJ74 | | ♠KT |
| ♥94 | | ♥KT82 |
| ♦AT93 | | ♦K6 |
| ♣92 | | ♣KQT54 |
| | Advancer | |
| | ♠8632 | |

♥J76
♦QJ8
♣873

1♠ - X - XX - P
2♦ - P - ??

When opener rebid 2♦, our top was defenestrated. North is never going to bid again! I had to content myself with a bid of 3NT, and make ten tricks for only 42%.

As you can see, N/S cannot make anything (and it's even worse for them than normal since E/W have almost *all* the tens and nines!). Their "best" contract after the redouble is 2♥, where they can take four tricks - that's 1100 for East/West and a tie for top (one other N/S was in 1NT doubled, also off four tricks). That translates to increasing our score by 6.4 gold points as we would have moved into second place overall in this tough event.

The moral of the story: Learn how to use a redouble after a takeout double. Arm your partnerships with the ability to extract large penalties from the opponents when they step into your auctions.

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: PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com



In Memoriam

Sheila Harrison



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 - Karenenuss@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

