



## Unit 174 June 2023 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

### **President's Message**

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

### **Member Profile**

***Jack LaVigne - Introducing: Paddy Fiorino***

### **Unit News**

***Coming Tournaments***

***Early Summer Sectional Flyer***

***99er Nite Club***

***199er Nite Club***

***Future Life Masters***

***2023 Club Table Counts***

### **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**

***Jack LaVigne - Trump Coup***

### **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

It is nice to see that the attendance at F2F games is steadily increasing, and

lots of friends that we have not seen in three years are returning. There was a good contingent from Unit 174 at the New Orleans NABC, and many are planning to attend the Chicago NABC as well. While our new clubs are doing well, there is still room for growth. Get your partners and teams lined up for our Summer Sectional coming, June 9-11 at the Arabia Shrine Center (Shriner's). Our August Sectional (10-13) is also at the Shriner's. It is both an open sectional and an I/N regional.

The ACBL Covid-19 policy has changed:

"Tournament sponsors (i.e., ACBL districts and units hosting the events) will be responsible for deciding whether COVID vaccination is required for players, staff and volunteers at the tournament." Our Unit 174 BoD has decided to lift all restrictions. Proof of Vaccinations are no longer required. We do, however, reserve the right to question anyone with obvious visible signs of being ill. This change does not apply, however, to any NABC event. Proof of Vaccination is required for attendance at an NABC tournament.

We have a Unit 174 problem because malicious scammers have obtained many of our member's email addresses and SPAM notices are going out to many of you asking that you purchase gift cards. Several very kind and generous members thought they needed to act upon these bogus requests because it appears to come from me or other board members. Please send these these types of emails to your SPAM folder. If you aren't sure, please forward it to me for confirmation. No board member has any reason to ever ask anyone to make purchases for the unit. We have a healthy treasure, and a treasurer who takes care of our bills. We don't want anyone else to lose money on these scams.

Karen Nussbaum  
[Karenenuss@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Bebe Burns, Lecia L Chaney, Rosalind J Clayton, Irene Liberatos, Donna Sachs, Eric Sachs, Sherry L Scarborough Tal, John Untereker and Mary C Untereker

**Transfers:** Mr. Martin C Wiewiorowski

**Welcome!**



### Rank Advancements

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

**Junior Master**

Steve Broderick, Najet S Guinn, Mr. Richard A, Audrey C Vinyard

**Club Master**

Martha G Hanson, Andy Kowalewski, Jan Watson

**Sectional Master**

Miss Mary Hartman, Patty Romigh, Mariah Stopper

**Regional Master**

Ms. Felecia Y Peavy

**NABC Master**

Art Jacikas, Marcie Jacikas, Wanda Wisniewska

**Life Master**

Mr. Jim R Nicas

**Silver Life Master**

Bill Nash

**!!! Congratulations !!!**

## Member Profile



### Introducing: Paddy Fiorino

BY **JACK LAVIGNE**

Paddy Fiorino was born in northeastern Iowa. Her family moved to Marshalltown when she was five and she grew up there, graduating from Marshalltown High School. She went to college at the University of Iowa where she got a Bachelor's degree majoring in General Science. After graduation, Paddy got her certificate in Physical Therapy in 1979.

Her husband was transferred to Stafford Texas a few months after graduation, and she has remained in the Houston area ever since. She worked as a Physical Therapist from 1979 - 2019.

With work and family Paddy had little time for herself, but in 2019 she began working part time and visited her sister in California.

Paddy had only, on rare occasions, filled in for her parent's bridge foursome. Her sister played bridge her entire adult life and was an avid duplicate player.



**Paddy Fiorino**

Her sister told Paddy: "Now that you are working part time you have no excuse." She dragged Paddy to the local duplicate club where Paddy joined the ACBL at her first game.

Her sister insisted that she continue with duplicate and found Eric Watson's (Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club owner) phone number on the internet. She called Eric and told him that Paddy would be calling him. Eric found Paddy a partner and she started playing at Eric's club on a regular basis. Later, Paddy found and started playing at Westside Bridge Academy.

She and her sister played in a Regional in Reno. Her sister had 4800 points and Paddy had one. They played side games and Paddy won 17 points at her first tournament.

Paddy won the Unit 174's 2020 Ace of Clubs and was 6th in the nation. She had only been playing duplicate a year and a half when COVID struck. She played regularly online during the COVID shutdown and became Life Master in March of 2021.

Paddy said that she appreciates her many mentors. She is especially grateful to Jay Evert who taught her the basics and introduced her to several books which she has read.

She is now a Ruby Life Master and lacks only 400 black points to make Gold Life Master.

Retirement has given Paddy little rest. She was asked and accepted the position of Unit 174 Secretary where she is still learning what reports go to whom.

She loves playing bridge and has played soccer for 20+ years. In the past year, she resumed crafting (making decorations, wreaths, tole painting), sewing, reading, playing golf, and playing the piano after a 20+ year hiatus

Look for this very busy lady at the bridge table where you will find a friendly but competitive opponent.

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



## Unit News

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## Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
May 20- June 4, 2023	Acapulco Diamante	GR		Regional	Open
Jun 2-4, 2023	Midland	TX	209	Sectional	Open
Jun 7-9, 2023	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
Jun 9-11, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Jun 10-11, 2023	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Jun 12-18, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC
Jul 3-9, 2023	San Antonio	TX	172	Regional	Open
Jul 27-29, 2023	Tyler	TX	225	Regional	I/N
Aug 10-13, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
Aug 10-13, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Sep 21-24, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Oct 27-29, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
Oct 27-29, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Nov 6-12, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC
Nov 16-19, 2023	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Dec 4-10, 2023	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	STaC

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



# Early Summer Sectional



## Houston Unit 174 Proudly Presents



## 2023 Early Summer Sectional

### ARABIA SHRINE CENTER

10510 Harwin Dr.  
Houston, TX 77036



### Stratification

#### Stratified Open Pairs

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

#### Stratified 499er pairs

B: 300-500 C: 100-300: D: 0-100

#### Bracketed Swiss

Brackets of 7-9 teams



### Playing Schedule

#### Friday and Saturday, Jun 9th & 10th

Stratified Open Pairs (may play 1 session) **10 & 2:30**  
 Stratified 499er Pairs (single sessions) **10 & 2:30**  
 Side Game (single sessions) **10 & 2:30**  
 FLM 0-50 Gemini Pairs (single sessions) **10 & 2:30**  
 Bracketed Swiss **10 & 2:30**

#### Sunday, Jun 11th

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions) **10 & TBD**  
 Stratified 499er Pairs (single sessions) **10 & TBD**  
 Bracketed Swiss **10 & TBD**

299er games may be added if attendance warrants

### Table Fees per Session

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

Table Fees are cashless (credit card only)

### Please Be Scent-sitive

No Cologne

No Perfume

No Offensive Odors

### TownePlace Suites by Marriott

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

### SPRINGHILL Suites by Marriott

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

### Tournament Chairs

#### Thomas Rush

PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com  
 (832) 228-7835

#### John DuBose

jd174biz@yahoo.com  
 (713) 315-1755

#### Hospitality Chairs

##### Nile Gross

nilegross@gmail.com  
 (832) 913-9318

#### Partnership

##### Janice Hardcastle

janice\_hardcastle@hotmail.com  
 (713) 661-8425

#### Antoun Henri

AntounHenri@gmail.com  
 (832) 659-2310

### Covid Safety

Vaccination no longer required to play  
 Please stay home if ill



Friday: Joe Quinn

Guest Speakers -2:00 Friday and Saturday  
 Saturday: TBA

# 99er Nite Club



## 199er Nite Club



## Future Life Masters





Future Life Masters of Unit 174

www.flm174.org

### Special Club Games

♦ **June 24th at BCOH 299ers**  
 4688 Louetta Rd, Spring  
 Potluck Lunch at 11:00/Game at Noon  
 Lunch & Game \$10.00

♦ **June 25th at BAWH FLM 199ers**  
 Arabia Shriners 10510 Harwin, Houston  
 Game at 1:00PM  
 Snacks & Game \$5.00

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

#### What is The Longest Day?

It is a significant fundraising program for the Alzheimer's Association  
Many of our clubs hold special fundraising events that week



#### Clear Lake Bridge Club

Wednesday, June 21st in the 10AM & 2PM Games  
FLMers have a great opportunity to bid on an auction  
to play with the club's best players

#### Bridge Club of Houston

Saturday, June 24th at noon including a 299er game!

### 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 7082.5 tables since January 1, 2023. The top four club table counts are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club - 1800.5 tables
2. Bridge Club of Houston - 1139 tables
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston - 934.50 tables
4. Lone Star Bridge Club - 601.5 tables

Where will your club rank by the end of 2023?



## Club News

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

The information must be received by the 22nd of the month to

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

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## 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.

### 299 Game Suspended:

Apple DBC is sad to announce the suspension of the 299 game on the 4th Monday of each month for the summer. We hope to resume in the fall.

Dan Morse Tribute Game and Luncheon will be held on Friday, June 2. BBQ lunch will be served at 11. Make your reservations so Brigitte can get a count on the number of people to feed by emailing her at [sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) with the name of the pair and if they require a N/S seat. Player's should not bring anything.

### June Closures:

Friday, June 9 due to the Unit 174 Early Summer Sectional.  
Monday, June 19 due to a County Holiday.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson  
[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information [here](#).

Per the ACBL recommendations: Beginning May 15, the COVID vaccination requirement will be 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.

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## Bridge Academy of West Houston

### Mentor/Mentee

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30. The next game is scheduled for May 6.

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 June 25.

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.



## District 16 STaC

District 16 is hosting a **STaC** week, Jun 12 -18. You can win Silver points if you place in a STaC event!

### 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 & Swiss Teams**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Arabia Shrine Center**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

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

### Game Calendar

Thu – Jun 1	NAP	Wed – Jun 21	NAP/Longest Day
Tue – Jun 6	Club Championship	Thu – Jun 22	NAP/Longest Day
Wed – Jun 7	NAP	Sun – Jun 25	Club Championship
Thu – Jun 8	NAP	Wed – Jun 28	Unit Club Championship
Wed – Jun 14	District 16 STaC	Thu – Jun 29	Unit Club Championship
Thu – Jun 15	District 16 STaC		

### Need a Partner?

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

BRIDGE  HOUSTON

## Bridge Club of Houston

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

**BCOH: Online Choose Houston**

**Mentor/Mentee Games:** June 7 and 21 (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](mailto:mlinkins@swbell.net).

**Mentor/Mentee F2F:** June 13 and June 27 at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at [judy\\_n\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_n_al@yahoo.com) by phone 713-320-5592 for June 13th and Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928 for June 27th. Also contact them with any questions.

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

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

Monday: 11:55 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

### SAVE THE DATES:

Swiss Teams – June 20 at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club**)

**June 16 - PIZZA FRIDAY** Open game at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a free pizza lunch.

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

**June 3** - Open game at 1:00 p.m.

**June 17** - 0-299 and Open game at 1:00 p.m. "Colored points awarded"

### Longest Day Supporting Alzheimer's

**June 24th - Open game.** This will be a potluck day. Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share! Lunch will be at 12 noon with both games to follow at 1pm. Colored points awarded. All proceeds will be donated to help the fight against Alzheimer's disease. Check [BCOH website](#) for more details.

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

### 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.**

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## 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						<b>FLM 0-20</b>	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM							
10:10 AM							
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM		<b>FLM 0-50</b>					
7:00 PM	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Open</b>		<b>Open</b>			

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

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## Clear Lake Bridge Club

The Club has Swiss Teams games on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Due to the Summer Sectional there will not be an Eight is Enough Game in June. The B players' upper limit is 2000 to 2500 masterpoints.

The club will be closed June 9-11 for the Early Summer Sectional.

STAC week is June 12-18.

Breakfast, Bridge & Lesson is on June 14 at 9:00 a.m. Topic of lesson has not been announced. Reservations are required for breakfast. The game begins

at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning June 15, at 2:00 p.m., and afternoon Open game will be added to the weekly game schedule. There will still be the morning Open game at 10:00 a.m. and both will continue unless the attendance wanes.

NAP games are June 19-26.

The Longest Day on June 21, will have two sessions at 10:00 a.m and 2:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$10.00 each session. A light breakfast will be served before the morning game and lunch between games to those who make reservations. All proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association.

Because of the Longest Day, the Mentor/Mentee game will be the fourth Wednesday (June 28) 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](#).

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

P.S.

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



## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY DBC

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

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

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

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

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

### **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 am to start at 9:30 am  
Community Center  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7225 Greadwood Parkway  
Sugar Land, TX 77479  
OPEN ON MONDAY HOLIDAYS including May 29

### **New Location for Tuesday Game**

Arabia Shrine Center  
10510 Harwin Dr.  
Houston, TX 77036  
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 10:15 TO START AT 10:30

### **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.

### **CONTACT:**

John Eric Watson  
[ewat2004@aol.com](mailto:ewat2004@aol.com)  
832 287 9107



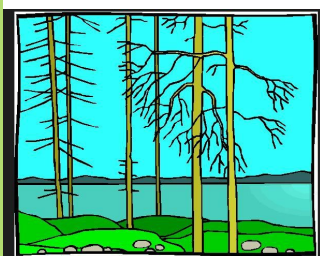
## **KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

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



## **LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

**June 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 June:**

- June 9 - June Birthday Celebration
- Jun 16 - STaC
- June 23 - Pizza Lunch

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON HWY 105. YOU MIGHT EXPERIENCE SOME DELAYS.**

**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](mailto: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.

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

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

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

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

Thursday The Longest Day June 22 - Our plan is to have a silent auction for an opportunity to play bridge with one of our "expert" Lone Star Bridge Club members.

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

Our new Board of Directors has been seated and includes Lynn Clark and John Erickson. Newly elected officers are President Deb Alexander, Vice President Carol Atkinson, Secretary Julie Halperin, Treasurer John Erickson and Club Manager Linda Sutton.

Intermediate bridge lessons will begin the end of May and a class on the 2/1 Game Force System is scheduled for this summer. Please contact Linda Sutton for additional information 936-443-3600.

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

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

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



## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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

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## SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE CLUB

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

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

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

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

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## STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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

**Masks are no longer required or encouraged**, and you must have a partner.

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

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## Contributors

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## Trump Coup



In an earlier article we looked at an advanced play (*the crossruff*) where rather than drawing trumps, declarer scored the trumps individually.

In this article we will look at another advanced play involving the trump suit. The trump coup occurs when declarer discovers a key card is onside but lacks the trumps in dummy to take advantage of it. Declarer must attempt to reduce the number of trumps held to the same number as held by the right-hand opponent. Declarer arranges the entries so that the lead will be from dummy at the end of the hand.

Example:

Assume spades are trump and North is declarer.

South	West
♠ -	♠ K9
♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -
♣ 86	♣ -
North	
♠ AQ	
♥ -	
♦ -	
♣ -	

With the lead from dummy declarer calls for the ♣6. East is helpless. If the ♠9 is played, North plays the ♠Q. If the ♠K is played, North plays the ♠A.

Let's look at the complete hand:

	South		West
	♠ 84		♠ K932
	♥ AK92		♥ 753
	♦ KQ3		♦ 1086
	♣ K865		♣ 973
East		North	
♠ 6		♠ AQJ1075	
♥ QJ104		♥ 86	
♦ J952		♦ A74	
♣ AQ102		♣ J4	

The bidding should best be forgotten. North opened 1♠ and East made a takeout double. After that North-South reached an ambitious contract of 6♠.

The opening lead was the ♥Q. Dummy wins the ♥A. With the ♣A to lose declarer sees that the trump finesses must be on. Declarer could play to drop the stiff ♠K offside but this doesn't seem very likely.

Declarer calls for a spade from dummy and hooks the ♠10 which wins. Things are looking up.

Declarer returns to dummy with the ♥K and finesses the ♠J which also wins but East shows out. Things have gotten darker.

Declarer pauses to consider whether there is any hope of making the contract. The dummy holds no more trumps so the only way the ♠K can be captured is through a coup. Declarer must try to reduce the number of trumps held to two (the same number as West) and wind up at the twelfth trick with the lead from dummy.

Without planning it out to the end, the first step must be to lead a club. East takes the ♣A and returns the ♦2, Declarer wins the ♦Q in dummy. Next, declarer ruffs a heart.

At this point a new danger has arisen. Based upon the takeout double and the lead of the ♦2, declarer visualizes West's distribution to be 4333. If declarer goes to dummy and trumps a heart, West will pitch a diamond and declarer will be unable to cash the remaining two.

Declarer leads ♦A and another diamond to dummy's ♦Q, all following suit.

Now things look better. Declarer ruffs a heart and West pitches a club. Finally, declarer leads a club to dummy's ♣K and ends up in the position shown at the beginning of the article:

South		West
♠ -		♠ K9
♥ -		♥ -
♦ -		♦ -
♣ 86		♣ -
North		
♠ AQ		
♥ -		
♦ -		
♣ -		

Six spades bid and made.

North can count lucky stars to have made this slam. It required both the ♣A and ♠K to be onside. Once this happened and spades did not break 3-2, North also needed to find West with 4333 distribution. After all this good luck the opponents were rolling their eyes wondering what they had done to deserve this disastrous result.

### Summary

In a trump coup declarer attempts to finesse through the right-hand opponent with no trumps left in the dummy. To accomplish this feat, declarer must reduce the number of trumps held to the same number as the right-hand opponent and maneuver to have the lead in dummy at the end of the hand.

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## In Memoriam

Larry Peterson

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

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