



## Unit 174 October 2023 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

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***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 - Not so Fast!***

***Nancy Guthrie - Update from Paducah, KY***

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

Our President has been very busy assisting the tournament chairs for the Halloween Sectional and I/N Regional. She has also started the work for the upcoming 2024 Lone Star Regional so we have no new president's message for this issue.

Karen Nussbaum  
[Karenunit174@gmail.com](mailto:Karenunit174@gmail.com)



## New Members and Rank Advancement



### New Members

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who transferred into our Unit. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

**New Members:** Alan T Chen, Chris Daughdrill, Patty Hazelrigg, Eve Lapin, Merri L Popa, Dennis D Sucec, Srinivas Vasudevan, Estella S Walker, Millie Wilson

**Transfers:** Rodney M Armstrong, Ruby N Collins, Mrs. Nancy D Ferguson, Mr, Frederick C Frankenberger, Mrs. Sharon J Frankenberger, Charles B Hogg, Linda Rickertsen, Mrs. Anita West

**Welcome!**



### Rank Advancements

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

**Junior Master**

Keith G Davis, Jane Gerber, Terri Morrison

**Club Master**

Steven R Bolinger, Linda J Jackman, Martha B Stern

**Sectional Master**

Steve Broderick, Donna Wasser

**Regional Master**

Beryl T Booker

**NABC Master**

Nancy K Small

**Advanced NABC Master**

Scott Koehler

**Life Master**

Dorothea V Faubion, Sandra J Lehner, Ava Noble, James D Rozzell

**Bronze Life Master**

Mr. Robert V Hannasch, Sandra J Lehner, Ava Noble, James D Rozzell, Betty Westbrook

**Silver Life Master**

Mrs. Helene Gersch, Mrs. Linwood L Olson, Sarah P Springer

**Ruby Life Master**

Myra M Marsh, Mrs. Rose A Van Meter

**Sapphire Life Master**

Mr. Edwin (Ted) C Bain III, Ms. Sherry Withers

**!!! Congratulations !!!****Member Profile****Timucin "Timo" Erkoc****BY BRIGITTE SANDIFER**

I met Timo many, many years ago when I was introduced to him by his mother-in-law at the Lone Star Regional (LSR). At that time nearly all bridge players dressed to play and Timo was there in a suit and tie. He was visiting Houston and I did not see him again until the "LSR" in 2018.

I was kibitzing Ed Groner and his partner Mary Pat Gentry and at the beginning of the session here comes Timo and his partner Richard Pavlicek from Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Ed and Mary Pat had a good round against them on that Monday, the first day of the "LSR".



By the end of the tournament Timo and his partner won the tournament and earning an impressive 186.69 MPs surpassing many world class players who also attended.

Afterward, I found out that Timo had relocated to the Houston area. He has been a great asset to our bridge community, playing in many of our clubs, plus mentoring and teaching the art of playing bridge. At the beginning of his return to Houston he stressed each time he came to play to make sure he plays in flight A even though his ACBL MPs were less because he had earned points in foreign countries. To this day I appreciate his honesty and integrity.

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Brigitte Sandifer is the manager of the APPLE II Bridge Club.

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## Unit News

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### 2024 Charity Nominations

What is your favorite charity? It is time to find the unit's 2024 Charity. *We want to hear from you!*

You can submit a worthy charity for the board to consider to the Charity Chair by emailing [Nancy Strohmer](#) by *October 31<sup>st</sup>*.

Please include the following items with your nomination:

- A copy of the 501 (c) 3
- Reasons why your charity should be selected
- Information such as the organization's scope, effectiveness and needs

Previous Unit 174 Charity of the Year recipients include:

- Houston Food Bank (2021, 2022, & 2023),
- Dress for Success Houston (2020),
- Make-A-Wish (2019) and
- SEARCH (2017 & 2018)

We look forward to considering your nomination!

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### Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
Oct 5-7	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Open
Oct 11-14	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
Oct 13-15	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
Oct 16-22	D16	TX	All	Sectional	ROYAL STaC
Oct 27-29	Houston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
Oct 27-29	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Oct 28-29	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Oct 30- Nov 5	Puerto Vallarta	JA	205	Regional	Open
Nov 2-4	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Local
Nov 4-5	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Nov 6-12	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	StaC
Nov 15-18	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
Nov 16-19	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Dec 2-3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Dec 4-10	STaC U174		174	Sectional	STaC
Dec 4-10	STaC U176, U183, U225, U254		176	Sectional	STaC
Jan 4-7	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
Jan 11-14	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
Jan 13-14	San Antonio	TX	D16	GNT/NAP	2023-2024 Finals
Jan 22-28	Houston	TX	174	Regional	Open
Apr 5-7	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Apr 18-21	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Jun 7-9	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Jun 10-16	D16		All	Sectional	STaC
June 20-23	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Aug 8-11	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Sep 19-22	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Oct 25-27	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Nov 4-10	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	StaC
Nov 14-17	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N

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

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## Halloween Sectional and I/N Regional



# Houston Unit 174 Bewitches Bridge

October 27-29, 2023

Friday, Saturday, Sunday



## Halloween Sectional and I/N Regional\*

GALVESTON, TEXAS

MOODY GARDENS HOTEL, SPA, AND CONVENTION CENTER

**\*GOLD POINTS AVAILABLE FOR PLAYERS 750 & UNDER!**

### STRATIFICATION

**Stratified Open Pairs**  
A: 3000+ X: 750-3000 Y: 0-750  
**Gold Rush Pairs**  
A: 750-500 B: 200-500 D: 0-200  
**Bracketed Swiss**  
Brackets of 7-9 teams

### Be Scent-sitive

*This is a fragrance-free tournament—no offensive odors!*

### MOODY GARDENS HOTEL, SPA & CONVENTION CENTER

Call 409-741-8484 and request the ACBL rate (\$156/night); North Tower is closest to playing site

Boxed Lunches available daily at a reduced cost of \$10\*\*  
Concessions available on site.  
Complimentary Catered luncheon on Sunday.\*\*

### Guest Speakers 2:00 PM

**Friday:** TIMO ERKOC "Bidding Over Preempts—The Monster Mash"  
**Saturday:** MELODY EULER "Trick or ...Director! (please)"

### DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

**FRIDAY NIGHT**—Tickets \$30 per person. Comedian Neal Rosen will enliven the evening. Cash Bar. Don't miss it!  
**SATURDAY NIGHT**—LUAU BY THE POOL, (weather permitting) Tickets \$30 per person. Cash bar. \*\*All hotel food subsidized by Unit 174. A great deal for our players!\*\*

### Playing Schedule

Friday and Saturday, October 27 & 28

Ghostly Ghouls Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30  
Hayride Haunting Gold Rush Pairs\* 10:00 & 2:30  
Spooky Side Game (Single Session) 10:00 & 2:30  
Bewitching Bracketed Swiss (2 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30  
*\*Players May Play One or Both Sessions*

Sunday, October 29

Ghostly Ghouls Open Pairs (Single Session) 10:00 & TBD  
Hayride Haunting Gold Rush Pairs 10:00 & TBD  
Bewitching Bracketed Swiss (2 sessions) 10:00 & TBD

### TABLE FEES PER SESSION

ALL DAYS, \$15.00 (\$4 more for non-ACBL/lapsed members)  
*Table fees are cashless—credit cards only.*

### Tournament Chairs

Sarah Springer (281)904-5791 sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com  
Dave Becker dbecker03@hotmail.com (214)274-2978

### Partnership

Eric Watson (832)287-9107 ewat2004@aol.com

### I/N Chairs

Mike and Joy Cowan (409)939-4634 - Joy (409)939-1678 - Mike joymaycowan@comcast.net gmcowan@comcast.net

### Hospitality/Awards

Edna Rice 713-594-0140 edna@ednarice.com.

Come in a costume for a chance to win a prize! One winner each day.  
**Happy Halloween** to all of our Spooky Bridge Players! May your tricks be treats! May your scores be high and slams be nigh.

## 2024 Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional

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



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

Sunday lunch  
provided with  
two session entry!



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

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

**Best Practices Teacher Workshop**  
*Registration fee \$50*  
*Certification fee is an optional \$25*  
  
Sat/Sun - Jan 20/21  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
For information or to register  
Sarah Springer - (281) 904-5791  
sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2024 Houston Unit 174 Online Lone Star Regional Event

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

## 99er Nite Club





## 199er Nite Club



## Club Table Counts

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

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

The 25 clubs in the unit have played a total of 12,807.5 tables since January 1, 2023. The top 15 club table counts are:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club - 3015 tables

2. Bridge Club of Houston - 1890 tables
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston - 1735 tables
4. Lone Star Bridge Club - 1067 tables
5. Apple II DBC - 798 tables
6. Apple DBC - 629 tables
7. Star DBC - 535.5 tables
8. Kingwood DBC - 420.5 tables
9. Cypress NW DBC - 325.5 tables
10. Ft. Bend DBC - 406.50 tables
11. Cypress NW DC - 325.5 tables
12. Spring Branch Duplicate - 254.5 tables
13. Pebble Creek DBC - 181 tables
14. Galveston DBC - 147 tables
15. Houston Raquet Club - 140 tables

Where will your club rank by the end of 2023?

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## Club News

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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).

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.

### **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.

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

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson

On Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a 299 Game.

[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer

[sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information [here](#).

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

**EARLY WARNING:** Apple Clubs will be closed October 23<sup>rd</sup> - November 3<sup>rd</sup> because of early voting.

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## Silver Life Master party

On Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a celebration for the newly crowned Silver Life Masters: Sarah Springer, Elizabeth Cabiness and Linwood Olson. A light lunch and cake will be served. Find your partner NOW!

## Mentor/Mentee

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

*October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Mentor/Mentee*

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

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

## Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Teams

Our Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Team games are held once a month on a Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

*October 22<sup>nd</sup> - FLM & 8 is enough Swiss Team*

The stratifications are:

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

For example one Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 players total 8 as would four Level 2 players. Another example would be three Level 2 and one Level 1 players whose team total is 7 and it is OK to be less than 8.

## Mini-lesson

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

## Game Schedule

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

**Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams**  
**1:30 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

Tue – Oct 3	Club Appreciation	Wed – Oct 18	Royal STaC
Wed – Oct 4	Club Appreciation	Thu – Oct 19	Royal STaC
Thu – Oct 5	Club Appreciation	Sun – Oct 22	Royal STaC
Wed – Oct 11	Club Appreciation	Wed – Oct 25	Charity Game
Thu – Oct 12	Club Appreciation	Thu – Oct 26	Charity Game

## Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 [martinsens@comcast.net](mailto:martinsens@comcast.net).

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

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

**Mentor/Mentee Games:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

**BCOH Open Games (Face-2-Face):**  
Monday: 11:55 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

### SAVE THE DATES:

8 is Enough Swiss Teams - October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

**Mentor/Mentee F2F:** October 10<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup> 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 October 10<sup>th</sup> and Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928 for October 24<sup>th</sup>. Also contact them with any questions.

### 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.**

**NEW:** *Twenty-Table Saturday game at BCoH on October 14<sup>th</sup>*

Taco Lunch provided by host team at 12:15 p.m., game at 1:00 p.m. with extra points.

Reservations requested to balance food, but not required. Sign up [here](#).

October 20<sup>th</sup> - Pizza Friday! Enjoy a free pizza lunch

October 31<sup>st</sup> - **Halloween Game**

Wear your costume and bring a snack to share. Prizes for top costumes. Regular game time 10:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded at the break.

### **-Gobble Thanksgiving Gobble Game Gobble-**

Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> - Turkey will be provided by BCoH. Bring a side or dessert to share. Lunch will be served at noon with the game to follow at 1:00 p.m. Pre- registration (not mandatory but appreciated) will be set up on website to help make sure we have enough Turkey for all.

499er Tournament November 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> - Watch for details on [website](#).

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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	<i>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>					<b>FLM 0-20</b>	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM							
10:10 AM							
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM	<b>FLM 0-50</b>						
3:05 PM							
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit <a href="http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh">www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh</a> for details</i>						
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.*

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



## Clear Lake Bridge Club

### Weekly Game Schedule:

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

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

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

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

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m. October 8<sup>th</sup> is 8 is enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints.

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

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

### Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

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

Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Bridge, DoNuts and Lesson with Rick Stell - Trumping. DoNuts at 9:00 a.m. with lesson at 9:15 a.m. Open game follows at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, Halloween Party with costume contest. Game starts at 10:00 a.m.

*The club will be closed October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> during the Galveston Halloween Sectional and I/N Regional. Pick up your Silver and Gold points!*

Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> - Happy Halloween.

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Party in conjunction with our Mentor/Mentee game. Katie Gardner and JoAnn Pierce are the party coordinators.

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Party again in conjunction with our Mentor/Mentee game. Darlyn Dusek and her committee will serve as party coordinators.

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.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.

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

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

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [jwarren760@gmail.com](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](mailto:jwarren7602gmail.com)



## Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club

### **Open Game Mondays in Greatwood**

Please Arrive by 9:45 a.m. to start at 10:00 a.m.  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7225 Greadwood Parkway  
Sugar Land, TX 77479

The club is open on Monday Holidays.  
Entries for regular and upgraded games are \$6.00.

### **Open Games Tuesday**

Arabia Shrine Center  
10510 Harwin Dr.  
Houston, TX 77036  
Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. Games starts at 10:30 a.m.  
Entries are normally \$5.00.

### **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.
- Results available immediately.

**CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME.  
CONTACT:**

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



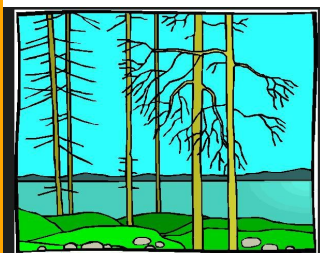
## KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

**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 a.m. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

For information, contact any of the following:  
 Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or [jrsimmons2102@gmail.com](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

**October 2023**

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

We begin playing at 10:30 a.m. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer 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.

Game days: Fridays

No Partner?? No worries! Call Gerry Earnest, 936-447-6958, and she will do her best to find you a partner.

**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](mailto:czthdaypjg@gmail.com)  
[website](#)

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## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul Global Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our [website](#).

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

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

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

We will be having three District 16 STaC Games in October 2023!

Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
The Tuesday game will begin at 10:30 am.

Our Mentee/Mentor game is normally the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. However, *due to STaC, the next scheduled date is October 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.* 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](mailto:larryandanita@gmail.com)

Please join us the first Monday of each month for our BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS. On Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be honoring all of our players who have October birthdays with a birthday cake.

The first Monday is also the day everyone is invited to attend our free monthly bridge lesson from Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll. Jeff's lesson begins at 11:00 a.m. and will conclude in time for the start of our bridge game at 11:45 a.m. Topics will be announced in our newsletter every month.

On Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual Happy Halloween Party. Please come in costumes and prizes will be awarded. Cake and ice cream will be served before the game begins!

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](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](#).

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## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](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 11:00 a.m.

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

Regular games are \$1/person. Totally non-profit in accordance with County rules.

Manager & Director  
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.

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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### Not So Fast!

BY **THOMAS RUSH**

This is a hand from the Summer 2023 Nationals in Chicago.

No one is vulnerable. Your RHO deals and passes, and you hold ♠Q9873,  
♥T8753,  
♦ -, ♣Q84.

I didn't have any trouble passing, and I don't think you would, either!

LHO opens 2♦, partner doubles, and RHO bids 3♦.

At this point, you have some choices. An experienced partnership might let you bid 4♦ to show both majors but not necessarily a lot of strength. I was not playing with a regular partner, so I contented myself with a 3♠ call, showing some values, and expecting that wouldn't be the end of the auction.

P	P	2♦	X
3♦	3♠	P	3NT
P	?		

And it wasn't. What to do over 3NT? Partner has a big hand with 18 and would overcall 2NT directly, so I expect a good 19+. I don't know what the top range would be! In any case, a 4♥ call seems right. I can't see leaving partner in 3NT when I have two five-card majors and a void in diamonds.

The 4♥ call ends the auction. LHO leads the ♦10, and dummy is tabled:

Dummy
♠ A6
♥ AQ942
♦ AJ4
♣ A53
Declarer
♠ Q9873
♥ 108753
♦ -
♣ Q84

Decide what to play on trick one before continuing.

Partner has a very nice hand for you. You are likely to take at least ten tricks. Your obvious losers are one spade, likely one heart (as long as hearts aren't split 3-0 with RHO holding 3 over dummy), no diamonds, and a club (one club can be pitched on the ♦A). The contract is not iron-clad; things can go wrong.

What do you do on trick 1 – from dummy's ♦AJ4, which card do you play? Over 80% of the intermediate players I've given this hand to, play the ♦A at trick 1 and pitch a club. I say, "Not so fast!" I don't think we know what we want to do with that ♦A yet. There is no rush. Diamonds are most likely 6430, but even if they are 7330, the ♦A isn't getting ruffed by RHO.

There are two more considerations to think about. If we *need* to pitch a club, we'll always have a chance later. We have the ♣A in the same hand as the ♦A, so we can always get to the ♦A for a club pitch if needed. Also, we need to get to our hand to lead a trump toward dummy. Why not ruff a diamond on the first round so we are where we need to be, and save the ♦A as a stopper should we need it later?

Think about this: when we play low on that ♦10, RHO plays the King! Now we have a tenace position over LHO's very likely ♦Q. If either opponent leads diamonds, they give us *two* diamond tricks, and that might come in handy later.

Therefore, we ruff the diamond low, and lead the ♥10 toward dummy. LHO is such a cooperative sort, and plays the ♥K(!) as his partner follows with the ♥6, so we know hearts are split 2-1, and we don't have a heart loser.

We draw the last trump, RHO follows, and now we must decide how to tackle spades and clubs, and which to go after first? It seems clear that, with three trumps left in dummy, we could play ♠A and a spade, giving the opponents their deserved spade trick, and then ruff three spades in dummy, pitching a club from hand on the (preserved) ♦A, so we would end up losing a spade and a club. Can we do better?

Let's play a low spade to the ♠A and see what happens. LHO plays the ♠J and RHO follows with the ♠2. Hmm... Now when we lead the ♠6 from dummy, RHO plays low (♠5). What's going on? Here are some possibilities:

1. LHO could have had the singleton ♠J, and RHO ♠KT542. In this case, going up with the ♠Q on the second round means we don't lose a spade trick – tempting, but is it likely? Spades would be 5521 around the table.
2. LHO could have the ♠J10 doubleton and be false-carding. In this case, going up with the ♠Q also avoids a spade loser. How likely is this? Spades would be 5422.
3. LHO could have the ♠KJ doubleton. Now, playing one of the ♠987 loses to his ♠K, but it also means that spades are 5422, and some magic can happen!

I took a long time to think, and decided that RHO was unlikely to have ducked the ♠King, and thus LHO with ♠KJ doubleton was likely. I put in the ♠8 (never give an opponent an honest card if you can avoid it) and was gratified to see the ♠K win the trick on my left.

Do you see what happens now, and why I was excited?

LHO now can't lead a diamond (remember, that gives me two club pitches if, as is likely, he started with the ♦QT9), so the ♣10 is lead. Should I let it run around to my ♣Q?

No!

I won the ♣A and called for the ♦Jack which I ruffed. I played the good ♠Q and pitched a club from dummy (LHO showed out by pitching a diamond while RHO followed with the ♠4). I now led one of my two last spades and ruffed it as RHO played the ♠10 - his last spade.

At trick 10 I could lead the ♦Ace and *trump it in hand* as an entry to my last good spade. I played that last spade, pitching the last club from dummy, and claimed, since in the two-card ending, dummy had two trump and no one else had any (or, the two clubs in my hand could now be ruffed in dummy).

In the end, I lost just one spade trick. Four Hearts making six for +680 was an 83% board, and a gratifying use of the maxim, "**Not so fast!**"

You can follow the play or load this hand into a table to test alternate lines of play by using this handviewer link: <https://tinyurl.com/2aj575mm>

(Note: Yes, on this hand with careful play, Declarer has enough entries to set up spades even if the ♦A at trick 1 but it wasn't necessary. Leaving the ♦A in dummy allowed declarer to be where needed for trick 2's lead of a heart, and provided the flexibility later in the hand (for instance, had hearts been split 3-0).

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Thomas Rush is a regular contributor to the newsletter, unit 174 board member and a bridge teacher who lives in the Houston, Texas area and teaches across North America using the internet and online bridge. His specialty is coaching partnerships to the next level of bridge: making sure your agreements and understandings are synchronized so that you get the maximum results when you play together. If you'd like to take your personal game or your partnership to the next level, contact him at [PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com), or 832-228-7835.



## Update from Paducah, KY

BY **NANCY GUTHRIE**

Hello there Houston (or Unit 174) bridge players,

I have been gone for three months (how time flies when you're having fun...ha). I miss you all but am so enjoying it here in Paducah, KY with my family and friends.

I am playing bridge at the Paducah Duplicate Club; the players are quite good and very hospitable and friendly. Of course, it is smaller games with 7-8 tables.

I have already had two sets visitors from our Unit 174 bridge world (Jack and Jeanette Dean and Barb Sweeney) and both have commented on the camaraderie of the bridge club here.

Paducah, for such a small town of 68,000 is highly involved with the arts (including symphony, art galleries...anything involving the arts) so I have gotten involved in this aspect (mostly participating).

It, of course, has been cooler here and I am looking forward to the fall foliage. Paducah is also known for its two large man-made lakes so that

aspect of the area is very appealing to me.

Take care and hugs to all of you,  
Nancy

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Nancy Guthrie is a previous Unit 174 member and also served on its board so she has many friends across the Greater Houston Bridge World.

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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 - [Karenunit174@gmail.com](mailto:Karenunit174@gmail.com).*

If you would like to have your club information or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment for which you are proud and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and subject title to [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Evvie Gilbert  
Editor  
[unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com)

