



Unit 174 February 2024 Newsletter



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From the Editor

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

Whew! It's been a hectic time for board members and everyone who helped us with our 2024 LSR. "It takes a village!" So many people stepped up to help, starting with everyone who assisted the board members with set-up. Special thanks to: Jane Armstrong for a fabulous job with the Event naming. Harry Seldin and Marty Hrachovy handled partnership in person and on-line and someone was there early every day. Peaches Eads and Patty Mullendore chaired the Hospitality desk-the busiest of all-and they had a great group of helpers. And, of course FLM was awesome with Janice Hardcastle, Betty Westbrook and Cindy Cox helping our new players along with the FLM group.

Our hope is that everyone had a great experience! We tried some new ideas this year. We started on Monday at 10:00 am with bagels and a full game schedule. The successful turnout was encouraging! The morning 'breakfast' snacks were also well received. We had a group of 30 novice middle schoolers on Friday. There were a few glitches, but these kids had a great time. Thank you all for the good support we were shown at the regional. It makes our efforts worthwhile.

Our Election Sectional is from Friday, April 5th thru Sunday April 7th. Early voting online will start in late March. We have five terrific candidates, so take the time to read about them and get to know them. Their information and photos will be on the Unit 174 Web Page.

Karen Nussbaum
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: Jessie Y Lee, Steve Rakofsky

Transfers: Mr. Larry Landers, Lou Ann Rice

Welcome!



Rank Advancements

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of January 1, 2024. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

Junior Master

Can P Berkatas, Joe P Chamblissm, Lorraine Hart, Fonda Tenenbaum

Club Master

Rodney M Armstrong

Sectional Master

Mr. Baines Manning, Dennis D Sucec, Mr. Don W Williams

Regional Master

John P Doyle, Mr. Leon Gertsch, Winnie Mohsenzadeh, Helen M Schwisow

NABC Master

Bill Brady, Margarite C Kirk, Kay G Watson

Advanced NABC Master

Hua Chen

Silver Life Master

Mr. Gene C Levy, Mrs. Suzie Wilson

Ruby Life Master

Mrs. Aruna Sane

!!! Congratulations !!!

Member Profile



A Diamond in the Ruff - Rick Stell

BY KATIE GARDNER

For any ACBL Not-for-Profit Bridge Club to run efficiently and effectively, the club's managing body must rely on "kindness of volunteers" (sorry Tennessee Williams). I know that every club (including ours) can boast of many standouts among their volunteers. I want to take the opportunity to highlight an excellent bridge player, tutor, smart, talented, giving, and generous volunteer, Rick Stell.

While on the quest to Diamond Life Master, Rick Stell has been donating his time to Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC) for over 12 years. He makes boards weekly for the games and maintains our club's printers, toner

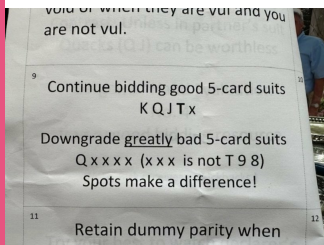


Rick Stell

cartridges, copier, and dealing machines including their purchase, cleaning, and maintenance. Proactive would be the best word to describe his volunteer style. Rick is the guy who "sees" things to do and does them, often at a reduced cost to the club. As an example, during the holiday season party preparations, Rick heard the chairs for these events express concern for outlets for crockpots, serving dishes and heating plates. He also became concerned about the number of outlets and their wattage. Prior to the events, Rick tested each outlet and labeled them so they had the correct wattage to accommodate the number of dishes without a power overload and electrical calamity. He also labelled each outlet and electrical switch in the club, so we have a reference point in the future.

Rick's volunteer contribution escalated into the realm of lessons and mentoring beginning and intermediate bridge players. With the re-emergence of face-to-face play after the COVID-19 lock down was raised, CLBC wanted to provide a vehicle for returning members to refresh and strengthen their game and encourage new and intermediate members to play at the physical location. Rick along with Cindy Cox and I introduced Bridge, Breakfast and a Lesson. This monthly event was held in the morning with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and lesson starting at 9:20 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Initially, Rick prepared and gave these lessons. WOW! It was the shot in the arm the club needed. Attendance was high, often with standing room only. Rick spent an incredible number of hours to prepare and provide "on the

mark” lessons in an organized and concise style that attendees could walk away with “nuggets” of renewed and new knowledge of play, bidding, and conventions.



Flash Cards

He always has handouts, asks and credits sources such as District 16 Lecture Series Presenter, Sally Wheeler, to use their materials. Rick even developed “flash cards” for attendees. The success is evident, with members using them regularly. This extra effort is appreciated by our members and the board. In time, other “A” players were asked to provide lessons and give Rick a break. Yet, another success as they heard the call, volunteered and delivered.

CLBC sponsors a monthly Mentor/Mentee Open game where Rick is a regular Mentor. He also regularly plays with beginning and intermediate players to assist them to strengthen their play and confidence. It is a treat to be on Rick’s mentor list and get to play with him.

Rick achieved his Diamond Life Master in 2023 which is a huge accomplishment. From Akron, Ohio, Rick attended Purdue University graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He is quick to credit high school bridge club, his family (mother, sister, Sue, and twin brother, Rob) for the introduction to and sound basics of bridge along with Steve Vaughn who (in 1982) saw the potential in Rick’s game and serves as Rick’s mentor and often partner. He also thanks numerous partners who helped him earn the Diamond Life Master distinction. Rick, his wife Sherri, son Jason and grandson, Julian, live in Houston.

Clear Lake Bridge Club extends tremendous thanks to Rick Stell for his *STELLar* performance; we are so fortunate to have him as a member.

Katie Gardner is a member and former president of the Clear Lake Bridge Club.



Unit News

Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
Feb 2-4	San Miguel	JA	254	Sectional	Open
Feb 3-4	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Feb 8-11	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Feb 8-11	Ajijic [Chapala]	JA	205	Sectional	Open
Feb 9-11	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
Feb 21-24	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
Feb 27- Mar 3	San Miguel de Allende	GJ	173	Regional	Open
Feb 29- Mar 2	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Feb 29- Mar 3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
Mar 7-9	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Open
Apr 5-7	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Apr 6-7	Houston	TX	174	GNT/NAP	GNT D16 Finals
Apr 17-20	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
Apr 18-21	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Apr 20-21	Austin	TX	207	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](#).



Unit 174 Presents a Check to Houston Food Bank Our 2023 Charity

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



Nancy Strohmer (left), Unit 174 Charity Chair and Brigitte Sandifer (right), Apple II Bridge Club Manager presented a check for \$1,574 to Sean Crowl, Houston Food Bank at the January 2024 Lone Star Regional.

Many thanks to unit's clubs and their members who participated in the charity games so this presentation was possible.

99er Nite Club



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 99's NITE CLUB game.

*Contact Nancy Strohmier for details:
nastrohmier@yahoo.com*

New Game in Town



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
2023	16,054.50	25

No 2024 numbers are available because ACBL is having a problem with that feature of the website. It will be included in next month's newsletter assuming ACBL has corrected the problem.

It is hoped that Unit 174 will keep the distinction of having the largest club in terms of table counts (Clear Lake Bridge Club) in District 16 for 2024 even though our 2023 total tables is down by 3,231 from 2022.



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.

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 a.m. sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15 a.m. All games are \$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 points.

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
sisbjohnson@gmail.com - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer
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.

Apple DBC will be closed Friday, February 16th through Monday, March 4th for primary elections.



Bridge Academy of West Houston

Platinum Life Master Party

On Wednesday, January 17th, everyone enjoyed the party that Joyce Ryan organized to celebrate David Henke achieving the rank of Platinum Life Master! Bridge has been part of David's life for a long time. He grew up in Oklahoma, where he first caddied, learned bridge as a freshman at the University of Oklahoma, became the youngest life master at the age of 21 and opened a bridge club.



Joyce Ryan & David Henke
(And many yummy cakes.)

David took a long hiatus from bridge to work as a lawyer at Kerr-McGee and raised a family. He moved to Houston in 1999 and retired in 2007. In 2010, a NABC was held in Houston. David went to kibitz Ed Groner, who he had known in Oklahoma. Ed and David visited that evening and they decided to play in a local game a few weeks later. David has been playing regularly ever since. Congratulations David!

499er Sectional

The Bridge Academy will host a 499er Sectional from Thursday, February 29th through Saturday, March 2nd. Game times are 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; and 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Mentor/Mentee

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the first Tuesday of the month at

10:30 a.m. The February game will be on

February 6th - 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 (FLM) and 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held once a month on a Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The next game will be held on

February 25th - FLM & 8 is enough Swiss Teams

Please Note: The upper limit for the FLM game has been raised from 199 to 299 masterpoints.

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.

The Swiss Teams is a very popular event. For help to find teammates contact:

Linda McReynolds @ (713) 819-7812 lindamcreynolds@comcast.net

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
Wednesday - Open & 299'er
Thursdays -Invitational
10:30 a.m.
Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams
1:30 p.m.
Arabia Shriners Center
10510 Harwin Dr.

- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Jennifer Breihan, John Herzer and Tom Jahnke directors

Game Calendar

Wed – Jan 31	Educational Foundation	Thu – Feb 15	Educational Foundation
Thu – Feb 1	Educational Foundation	Wed – Feb 21	Educational Foundation
Tue – Feb 6	Educational Foundation	Thu – Feb 22	Educational Foundation
Wed – Feb 7	Educational Foundation	Sun – Feb 25	Educational Foundation
Thu – Feb 8	Educational Foundation	Wed – Feb 28	Educational Foundation
Wed – Feb 14	Educational Foundation	Thu – Feb 29	Educational Foundation

Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 martinsens@comcast.net.



Bridge Club of Houston

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

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

BBO - 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.

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****

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

499er Sectional

February 8th - 11th.

Click [here](#) for the tournament flyer.

SAVE THE DATES:

8 is Enough Swiss Teams - February 20th at 10:30 a.m. ([Register at the club.](#))

Mentor/Mentee F2F: February 13th and 27th at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at judy_n_al@yahoo.com by phone 713-320-5592 or Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928. Also contact them with any questions.

TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson from 9:30 to 10:10 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.**

February 23rd - Pizza Friday! Enjoy a free pizza lunch

"TWENTY TABLE SATURDAY"

Saturday February 17th Lasagna, sides and dessert will be provided.

Extra points will be awarded. Prizes and other random giveaways!

No partner. No problem we will match you up.

Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Open and 299ers games beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Please register for the game in which you will play so we can estimate the amount of needed food. To make a reservation, click [here](#).

2024 Board Of Directors

The 2024 Board of Directors are ready to work hard to keep BCOH a wonderful place to play bridge. The elected officers are: **Janice Hardcastle** - President; **Bob Ziegler**- Vice President; **Kathy L'Hommedieu**. Other board members include Mike Linkins, Marsha Boyer, Charles Woody, Debbie Nash, and newly elected members Brian Shaffer and Kas Rangan.

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

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

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 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m. February 11th is 8 is Enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. We ask that anyone interested in playing in any of the Sunday afternoon Team Games to please register before you come so that the director can have the set up done on time.

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

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.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - *New!*

Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Our Mentor/Mentee game at on February 21st at 2:00 p.m. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

Due to the costs involved, the Mentor/Mentee game is the one game where we do not invite visitors. We certainly appreciate having visitors at any of the other games!

The quarterly Donuts, Lesson and Bridge program will be kicked off on February 14th at 9:00 a.m. The lesson starts at 9:15 a.m.. Rick Stell will be recapping the lessons from 2023.

The annual meeting is on February 17th at 11:30 a.m. Your annual dues must be paid to vote. Pizza will be served before the regular Saturday 1:00 p.m. game.

Check out www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education for new classes offered in 2024.

Bobbie Moutz
2nd Vice President
281-546-9199
natcolem@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 a.m., with sign-up beginning at 11:00 a.m.

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

Katy DBC meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00 a.m., and the game begins at 11:30 a.m. 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 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

Open Games Tuesday

Arabia Shriners Center
10510 Harwin Dr.
Houston, TX 77036

Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. Games starts at 10:30 a.m.
Due to rent increases, our entry fee is \$7.00.

- 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.
- Fully qualified and experienced directors.

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

John Eric Watson
ewat2004@aol.com
832 287 9107



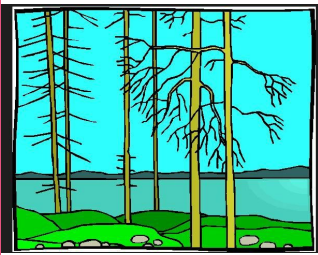
KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games:

Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. 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.
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or ichibanbill@yahoo.com.
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570
Or Visit our [website](#).



LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

February 2024

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 complimentary 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.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday's at LCDBC and invite you to join us at the table for a great day of bridge.

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 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.

****All February Games will be Awarding Extra Masterpoints****

Thursday, February 1st at 10:30 a.m. - Education Fund Game

Monday, February 5th at 11:00 a.m. - Jeff Kroll's free lesson. Education Fund game starts at 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, February 8th at 10:30 a.m. - Education Fund game with FREE PIZZA for lunch

Monday, February 12th at 11:45 a.m. - Monthly Birthday Celebration and Education Fund game.

Tuesday, February 13th at 10:00 a.m. - Class Begins - Learn to play the 2/1 bidding system. Class is four lessons, cost per lesson is \$5.00 taught by Linda Sutton, club manager. Lessons are from 10:00 a.m. - Noon, followed by supervised play.

Thursday, February 15th at 10:30 a.m. - Education Fund Game

Monday, February 19th at 11:45 a.m. - Club Championship Game

Tuesday, February 20th at 10:30 a.m. - Club Championship and Mentor/Mentee Game

Thursday, February 22nd at 10:30 a.m. - Club Championship Game

Monday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m. - Lesson 2: 2/1 Bidding System. See above for details.

Thursday, February 29th at 11:45 a.m. - Education Fund Game.

The Board of Directors and the membership of The Lone Star Bridge Club are happy to announce that on January 18th, we celebrated the 6th year anniversary of our opening!

*****Please note the change of dates for the Bridge Lessons NOTE *****

Classes begin Tuesday, February 13th and will be continued on February 27th, March 5th and March 12th. Followed by a wrap-up lesson on March 26th.

Mentor/Mentee Games will be on February 20th and March 19th. For more information and to enroll, please contact Linda Sutton at: lindasutton212@gmail.com or 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.

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 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or richard.duble@yahoo.com or visit our [website](#).



SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE BRIDGE

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
John Herzer
737-287-7888
johncherzer@gmail.com
[website](#)



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 or visit our [website](#).



Contributors



Trust Your... Opponents?

BY **SAM Khayatt**
&
JEFF KROLL

Dir: West
Vul: None

North
♠ 7
♥ AQ852
♦ K4
♣ J8754

West
♠ K10964
♥ J1097
♦ Q63
♣ A

East
♠ Q32
♥ 64
♦ J97
♣ Q10962

South
♠ AJ85
♥ K3

♦A10852
♣K3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass ²	2♦ ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴
Pass	3♣ ⁵	Pass	3NT

The Auction

1. The 1NT bid is, admittedly, flawed; it has two doubletons. However, that is only one flaw. Jeff and I subscribe to the Ron Klinger philosophy that only two (or more) flaws prevent us from opening 1NT. Furthermore, south has two doubleton kings. South definitely wants to be the declarer so that the opening lead does not go through either king. By opening 1NT, it is almost certain that south will be declarer if North/South win the auction.
2. Sitting West, one might be inclined to make a bid that shows both majors but only if the ♣A were a major-suit ace. Aces in long suits are much better than aces in short suits. Jeff and I agree with the pass.
3. Transfer to hearts.
4. Accepts the transfer.
5. Shows 4+ clubs, 10-12 points.

The Play

West leads the ♥J. South clearly needs to work on a red suit. The first inclination would be to work on the hearts since the north/south hands hold the ♥AKQ and only ♦AK in diamonds. The ♥J lead is likely either the top of a doubleton or the top of a sequence in a long suit. South is unlikely to be looking at a friendly 3-3 heart split.

So, south chooses to work on the diamonds.

The opening ♥J is won by the ♥K. Next, the ♦AK and a small diamond are played. West wins the ♦Q. The diamonds do have a friendly 3-3 split (unlike the hearts). West cashes the ♣A, making the rest of the hand easy.

North/South take one spade, three hearts, four diamonds (because they split 3-3) and a club, for nine tricks. Had the opening lead not been carefully considered, the contract could have gone down a less successful path.

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



In Memoriam

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- * Robert F. Curl, Houston
 - Ricky Haikin, Houston
 - Bill Kiehnhoff, Sugar Land
 - * Carolyn F. Labouliere, Seabrook
 - * John B. Taylor, Friendswood
 - * Mrs. Marcella L. Thomas, Houston

* Life Master



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.

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
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