

UNIT 174 EVENTS & CLASSES February 2022



Welcome to February 2022 Unit 174 Events and Classes Newsletter.

We hope you had a great time at the Lone Star Regional Tournament. Thank you to all the volunteers and players that make Unit 174 Tournaments successful! We could not do this without you.

If you would like to volunteer to help with Unit 174 events and projects, call Karen Nussbaum at karenenuss@gmail.com.

The purpose of this newsletter is to tell you about any special events happening in the bridge world that affect you and to make you aware of the learning opportunities offered by Unit 174 clubs and bridge instructors.

Plus, each month, we bring you an interesting hand and/or a video from our local and prolific bridge wizard Jeff Kroll and an online bridge class for beginners from Robert Hanley of Durham DBC.

Please send us your class schedules, special event news, and links by the 25th of the month. This newsletter is published on the 1st of each month.

Note: for the March newsletter only, we will be publishing early as both editors will be on a bridge cruise - so you will need to have all info in by February 23rd. Thank you!

The unique email associated with this newsletter is unit174classandevents@gmail.com.

Jeanne Phelps and Chris Duncan
Co-Editors

For more information about what is happening locally, go to the Unit 174 web page acblunit174.org.

UNIT 174 AND DISTRICT 16 SPECIAL EVENTS



Come Play with Us!

FLM Schedule for the On-Line Games:

- Apollo - 0-20 MPs - Tuesday - 3:05 pm - Houston U174FLM Apollo 0-20 Assisted Play
- Apollo - 0-20 MPs - 2nd Saturday - 9:00 am - Houston FLM Apollo 0-20 Assisted Play & Board Review
- Gemini - 0-50 - Monday - 4:00 pm - D16 0-50 FLM Gemini
- Discovery - 0-99 - Tuesday - 2:45 pm - ChooseHouston FLM Discovery
- Discovery - 0-99 - Thursday - 2:45 pm - ChooseHouston FLM Discovery

We Encourage All of our Newcomers to Join Us!

To learn more about our FLM Playing Groups, CLICK HERE: [Future Life Masters](#)

ACBL SPECIAL EVENTS



**Foster Bridge Learning with Educational
Foundation Month (face-to-face and online)**

Whether you play in face-to-face or virtual clubs, there will be chances to support the important work of the ACBL Educational Foundation while also earning special masterpoint® awards in February!

For in-person clubs, it's a month-long event. All sessions in February can be run as an Educational Foundation game, which will award double regular club black points. Check with your local club for details.

Educational Foundation Week (February 21-27, Monday-Sunday) will be held in the Virtual Clubs and will also raise funds for this worthy organization. These games will award double normal club black points.

Some of the programs from the ACBL Educational Foundation you'll be supporting include BridgeWhiz: Bridge for Kids, the Bridge "First Hands" Series, and students' travel to the ACBL's Collegiate Bridge Bowl.

If you are unable to play face-to-face or online bridge during February, please consider a donation that will continue to support these initiatives.

[Donate Today](#)



**ACBL Sanctioned Western Caribbean Sectional at Sea
VIII
February 27- March 6, 2022**

Join us for a 7-night Bridge filled cruise aboard the RCCL Liberty of the Seas starting at \$1019. Includes Cruise, Bridge Program and Teacher, Standard Gratuities, Taxes, and Port Fees Round-trip from Galveston, TX. Featuring Sally Sassen as our onboard instructor.

!!!Bonus!!! We only use ACBL tournament directors, so you get 30% more points than virtually any other cruise! With stops in Cozumel, Mexico, Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Falmouth, Jamaica. For Booking Information Contact: Brett Ramsey

901.870.1293 rambr@mail.com Please visit our website for more information: www.Bridge-Cruise.com

The Unit 174 Events and Classes Newsletter editors will be on this cruise. This is the fourth time we have gone. It's a lot of fun, reasonably priced, and no airline travel. The organizer, Brett tells us that we will not have to wear masks during the game (you need to wear them to get there). We hope you decided to join us.

VIRTUAL CLUBS - BBO GAMES

ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS

District 16 Daily 0-99ers Games with Pre & Post Lessons and Analysis

District 16 offers our 99ers a game just for them - the "99er Nite Club"! These games are offered 7 days a week at 6 pm. If you are a 99er, ask your Club if they are participating. Your Club has to "opt-in" for these games to participate. If your Club has any questions, ask them to contact Nancy Strohmer, nastrohmer@yahoo.com.

District 16 wants every 99er to have the opportunity to play as much as possible and have the best experiences. There are extra perks of this game--Lynn Berg provides mini-lessons @ 5:30 pm, a wide variety of professionals (including Larry Cohen) conduct a postmortem at about 7:30 pm and these are bigger games offering more masterpoints!

DISTRICT 16 GAMES FOR NEW PLAYERS

New to duplicate bridge? Try the 0-50 MPs game.

Welcome to the bridge family! District 16 is offering to all 0-50 masterpoint players a 12 board game on BBO for \$3 every Monday at 4:00. You can ask a partner to play or sign in at the partnership desk and pick up a new partner.

Practice, practice, practice -- your experiences at the table can be your best teacher. A director and assistants will be on hand to offer guidance during the game.

For more information, check out our [D16 0-50 Game Frequently Asked Questions](#) or email Beginner20Bridge@gmail.com.

**OK, I think I'm getting it—
Stretch up to the 0-99 masterpoint game!**

District 16 offers our 99ers a game just for them - the "99er Nite Club"! These games are offered 7 days a week at 6 pm. If you are a 99er, ask your Club if they are participating.

Your Club has to "opt-in" for these games to participate. If your Club has any questions, ask them to contact Nancy Strohmer, nastrohmer@yahoo.com.

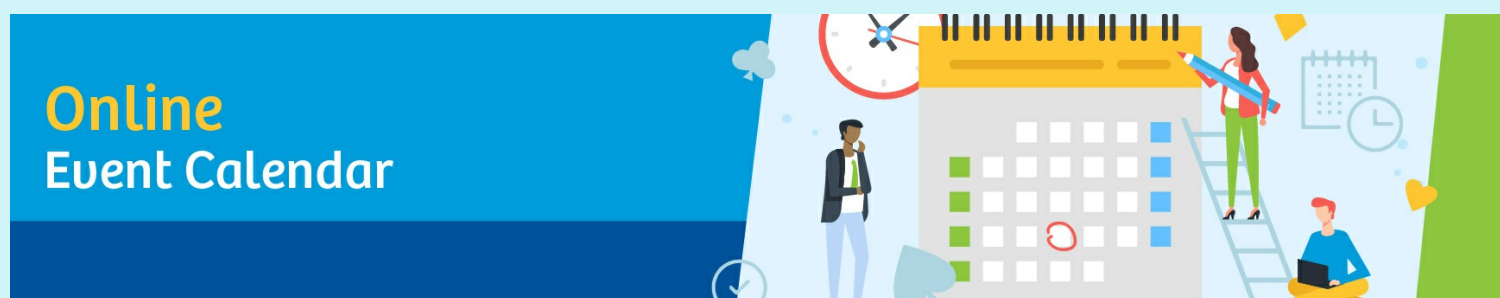
We want every 99er to have the opportunity to play as much as possible and have the best experiences. There are extra perks of this game--Lynn Berg provides mini-lessons @ 5:30 pm, and these are bigger games offering more masterpoints!

For additional newcomer information, click on [D16 Intermediate/Newcomer Info](#).

For the comprehensive newcomer game schedule. [CLICK HERE](#). Contact information is also provided if you have questions.

To see original information go to the District 16 Web Page: [ACBL District 16 Home Page](#)

ACBL SPECIAL GAMES FOR ONLINE PLAYERS



Coming up in February-

Double the Fun - and Your Red and Black Points
- on Valentine's Weekend

Celebrate this Valentine's Day by playing bridge! On February 12-13 (Saturday and Sunday), all Virtual Club games will award double the regular club masterpoints, and they will be half red/half black.

Feb 12-13- Valentine's Weekend

2x regular club points, 50% red, 50% black.

Feb 21-27 - Educational Foundation Week

2x regular club points, 100% black

You do not need to do anything special to participate in these games; any game in the Virtual Clubs will be automatically included.

Every month on the ACBL website there is a list of special online games offered. To find what special online games will be available click [here](#).

LATE BREAKING NEWS ABOUT CLUBS

BRIDGE CLUB OF HOUSTON (BCOH)

Bridge Club of Houston is pleased to announce their 2022-2023 Board of Directors. President - Mike Linkins; Vice President - Debbie Nash; Treasurer - Kathy L'Hommedieu; Secretary - Bill Farrar. Completing the board are Marsha Boyer, Janice Hardcastle, Gretchen Lindquist, Bob Matlock, and Hugh Miller. The new board is looking forward to a fun and exciting year of bridge.

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

Do you receive our weekly newsletter every Sunday? If not, please contact B7rnitddgbel@gmail.com

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

"8 is Enough": February 22nd at 10:30
(Register at the club)

"Celebration Time": February 2nd at 10:30

This event is a "catch up" to recognize all the members who advanced a rank (or more!) between March 2020 and December 2021. In the future, we will hold recognition events quarterly. Come to the game and celebrate everyone who ranked up even though the club was closed much of that time. Well done!



SILVER POINTS ! SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS!
499/NLM Tournament
Feb 24 – Feb 27, 2022

4688 Louetta Rd., Spring TX (next to Tuesday Morning)
281-651-6550 | thebridgeclub@sbcglobal.net

Partnership

Need a partner? Contact **Janice Hardcastle** at 832-643-1704 or janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com.

Stratification

A = 500 B = 300 C = 100

Strats may vary at the director's discretion

Lunch / Snacks

Free snacks and drinks available all days. Lunch available for \$5 on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, if ordered by 10am.

Entry Fees

ACBL Member (current)

\$10 per session per player

Lapsed ACBL Member

\$14 per session per player

Tournament Chair

Hugh Miller

Hugh.miller1@gmail.com

Pre-registration highly recommended on our website (www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh) for pairs and swiss teams

A swiss team sign-up sheet will also be available at the tournament

Event Schedule

Thursday, February 24

♠ 499r Pairs 10am
♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

Friday, February 25

♠ 499r Pairs 10am
♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

Saturday, February 26

♠ 499r Pairs 10am
♠ 499r Pairs 2pm

Sunday, February 27

♠ 499r Swiss Team 1:30pm

Ask the Expert

On **Sunday, Feb 27, from 12:30-1:15pm**, expert players will answer questions about your tournament hands. They will also discuss hands which demonstrate an interesting bidding, declarer or defense situation.

*Proof of Covid vaccination required to enter
Masks optional
Club HVAC system, filters recently upgraded*

BRIDGE CLASSES OFFERED

CLEAR LAKE BRIDGE CLUB

Dave Glandorf

Bridge 100BL: Every Sunday and Tuesday, 2-5 pm.

Fee - \$8 per session. No advance registration is needed.

These are informal "Bridge Lab" courses. They are pay-as-you-go practice courses in a monitored rubber-bridge type of environment. Students may ask questions of a monitor during or after the bidding or play.

For the following classes, there may also be a materials surcharge fee for shipping if needed.

No classes the week of January 23.

Bridge 100B:

Mondays 6:45 - 9:45 pm, January 10 - April 11 or
Thursdays 2-5 pm, January 13 - April 14
(Two identical but separate classes.)

Tuition - \$175, Materials - \$35

This 13-week beginner course is an introduction to Bridge with an emphasis on card play.

Bridge 101A:

Mondays 2-5pm, Jan 10 - Apr 11

Tuition - \$175, Materials - \$35

This 13-week beginner course is the first in a series of two courses covering the basics of bidding.

Bridge 100PA:

Tuesdays 6:45-9:45pm, Jan 11 - Apr 12

Tuition - \$175, Materials - \$21

This 13-week beginner course is the first in a series of two practice courses covering bidding, play, and defense.

Bridge 110:

Wednesdays 2-4:30 pm, Jan 12-Mar 23

Tuition - \$150, Materials - \$20

This 10-week course covers the basics of the 2/1 Game Force bidding system modifications to the standard 5-card major system.

Bridge 130:

Thursdays 9 am-noon, February 3 - February 24

Tuition - \$75, Materials - \$10

This 4-week course focuses on defensive card play.

Bridge 140:

Thursdays 9 am-noon, March 3 - March 24

Tuition - \$75, Materials - \$45

This 4-week course focuses on slam bidding.

Contact Dave Glandorf for more information:

dr glandorf@sbcglobal.net 281-488-6318 (home) or 713-628-0030 (cell)

PLAY BRIDGE WITH TOM JAHNKE

Beginning Bridge and afternoons Supervised Play.

Beginning January 24 for 8 Mondays

Mondays, from 1:00-3:00pm

Fee: \$10 per session

St Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd., at Woodway

For more information, contact Tom Jahnke

at tomtomj211@yahoo.com or 713-824-0693

THE LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

We will be starting a series of six Bridge Classes for Beginners on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022. Classes will be from 10 am to Noon at the St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, in Conroe, Texas. Classes are \$5.00 each, or all six lessons for \$25.00. The lessons will be taught by Linda Sutton, a Gold Life Master.

For more information, contact Linda

Sutton, lindasutton212@gmail.com.

Proof of COVID vaccination is required.

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Ongoing free lessons are on the first Monday of every month with DLM Jeff Kroll. Lessons are from 11 am to 11:45, followed by an OPEN bridge game at Noon. The February lesson will be February 7th and will be Part II of Matchpoints vs IMPs.

## **JOYCE RYAN AT ST JOHN THE DIVINE AT WESTHEIMER AND RIVER OAKS BLVD**

Supervised Play from 1:00-4:00 on Mondays

Defense from 10:00-12:00 on Tuesdays

Competitive Bidding from 1:00-3:00 on Tuesdays

ALL CLASSES ARE FACE TO FACE, and proof of COVID vaccination is required

For more information, contact Joyce at [joyceryanbridge@gmail.com](mailto:joyceryanbridge@gmail.com).

## **THOMAS RUSH ONLINE BRIDGE CLASSES**

**Intermediate or Advanced Pairs Workshop on BBO**

Scheduled according to your calendar, online  
Two-hour sessions designed for a partnership, \$100/pair/session.

I've been running these very successful sessions with a limited group and am ready to roll it out to more people. In these two-hour online sessions, we'll set up a teaching room on BBO with audio for one or two pairs, with me working as a coach to help you analyze auctions declarer play and defense at a higher level.

Because we're playing online, we can discuss a hand immediately after and replay it to see the benefit of different bids or order of play. We can also give you practice on particular conventions or types of hands -- it's really up to the people in each particular class!

For more information, or to register, contact Thomas Rush at 832-228-7835 or email [PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com).

### **Intermediate/Advanced Defense on BBO**

Times according to your schedule! Six 60 - 90 minute sessions over six weeks. \$180/person individual, \$150/person for you and a regular partner as a pair.

In this class, we'll talk about how to take your defense to the next level: communicate legally with your partner and thwart declarer's plans!

We'll cover defensive planning and signaling in-depth: Selecting the right opening lead; How to use count and attitude signals; Suit preference signals throughout the hand; Better first discards, and more. You're on defense half the time -- make the most of it!

For more information, or to register, contact Thomas Rush at 832-228-7835 or email [PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com).

## **2/1 Bidding with Joe Quinn 2-time National Champion**



- **2/1 Game Forcing**
- **Forcing NT**
- **Slam Bidding**

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This course will provide students with improved methods for 2/1 bidding to achieve better results. This series is geared to intermediate and advanced students and will create a solid foundation for this important area of the game.

Six Tuesdays 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
February 8, 15, 22 & March 1, 8 and 15  
\$200.00 for the series  
On-line via Internet

**Reserve your space today!**

Sign by email [valquinn1950@gmail.com](mailto:valquinn1950@gmail.com)  
Or text 713-444-5034

## INTERESTING BRIDGE HANDS

### ASK JEFF by Jeff Kroll

#### Video of a class given by Jeff Kroll

**Part I - Lesson on Matchpoints vs IMPs:** [Bridge lesson 1-3 2022 \(rev 1\).mp4 on Vimeo](#)

#### **QUESTION 1. Using Position, Quality, and a Void in Hand Evaluation to give you and your partner the option to explore for a slam.**

You hold this hand in the first seat but, it should be made in any seat.

♠ - void  
♥ - AK97643  
♦ - A92  
♣ - KQ2

What would you open and why?

JEFF KROLLS ANSWER:

If I was the first bidder, I would open it 2C, and these are the reasons:

1. It's a 4-loser hand: 1 heart, 2 diamonds, and 1 club.
2. I promise at least 2 aces and 2 kings for a 2C bid. I have them. If



the opponents go to 4S and partner doubles, I'll sit for it.

3. If they go to 4S and my partner doesn't double, then it's up to me whether I want to double or go on to 5H. With this hand, I'd bid 5H.

4. Usually, I would have 19 hcp for a 2C bid. But this hand has all prime values and is odds on to make 4H opposite very little from my partner.

My second choice would be to open it 1H, planning on jump shifting into one of the minors on my second bid. That would be forcing to game. I prefer the 2C opening bid as I think we would have a better chance of finding a possible slam.

Opening 1H and bidding any number of hearts on my second bid would grossly underbid this hand.

Of course, opening 4H is preemptive and makes a good slam impossible to find.

If there is an interfering bid over the strong 2C, partner should double with a bust - no ace or king, Passing shows an ace or king.

If there was a bid before I got a chance to bid 2C, I would make a take-out double. Partner will assume I have at least 3 card support for the 3 unbid suits (which is not true). However, when I bid my hearts on my second bid, partner should realize I have a big hand (17+ points) and a rebiddable heart suit and not necessarily support for the other suits. So my hand will be clarified.

### **Expected bidding from partner:**

I am a strong supporter of Larry Cohen's bidding. For several years now, he has written what the standard bids mean in the ACBL Bulletin.

So, this is how I like to respond to a 2C bid:

- If I have a 5 card major and 8+ points, I will bid it
- Otherwise, I'll bid 2D.

If I have a bust hand (no ace or king), after partner (the 2C opener) shows her suit, I will bid the cheaper minor. So, if the 2C bidder now bids 2H, or 2S, I will bid 3C. If the 2C bidder now bids 3C, I will bid 3D. If the 2C bidder now bids 3D, so as not to bid past 3NT, by convention, I will bid 3NT as the cheaper minor bid.

*One more thought. Voids are great when you have trump support for partner. They can be worth as much as 5 points. Marty Bergen wrote that voids are magical. Sometimes they are. I'd view the void in*

*spades as a plus when first evaluating this hand, but would not add points for it unless the bidding gave me a clue that it would be useful. If the opponents bid spades, then my void is useful when we declare. If my partner bids a suit other than spades then my void in spades can be a valuable control and would be useful.*

## **QUESTION 2. Borrowing a King**

This situation happened at the tournament, so I cannot put a picture of the cards in each hand. My partner's dilemma was that her RHO opened 1 club and clubs was her suit. She had either five or six. She had opening points. I cannot remember where the points were in her hand. She had a little more than minimum opening count as I recall. What is the best way to handle this?

JEFF KROLLS ANSWER:

The general rule is when they bid your suit, you pass in tempo (don't let everybody at the table know they bid your suit). If Lefty should pass, partner is expected to balance (When the opponents will declare if you pass as partner has already passed on their contract, then you are in the balancing seat.)

As balancer, if you have 8 or more points borrow a King. Partner may have more than she's shown, so you bid as if your hand had 3 more points. That's called borrowing a king. So, your 8+ point hand is bid as an 11+ point hand.

If the partner has a 5+ card suit with 8+ points, she should bid it. If partner has a decent 4 card suit and shortness in one of the other 3 unbid suits, she should bid it—otherwise, partner doubles (takeout).

If partner doubles and you think you can set them scoring more points than you would if your side declares, you should convert partner's takeout double to a penalty double. Otherwise, bid something. You might bid notrump if you don't have a second suit. You might also bid your minor suit if you have 5+ of them as Righty is likely to have only 4 or even a 3 bagger. Michaels is no longer on as you didn't use it on your first bid.

Penalty doubles should work 2/3 of the time. If yours work more than that, you are not doubling enough.

Your other choices on your first bid after Righty bids your suit are:

1. If you have a second suit worth overcalling with; Bid it. This is often the case when Righty bids a minor and you have one of the majors.

2. Bid notrump. This is especially useful if Righty bids your minor and you have notrump points and no major. Stops Lefty from bidding 1 of their major.

## 2 Beginner Games - Results and Video by Robert Hanly's Durham DBC

Every week Robert Hanley of the Durham DBC takes two hands from his beginner games and shows how he would have bid and played the hand. Please note that he uses a BBO screen to show his solution so be aware of the positions in BBO, they may or may not match the hand record. This month's example is from his Dec 28th game.

Dir: S  
Vul: E-W

11  
18 6  
5

♠ AK 5  
♥ A 5 3  
♦ K J 10  
♣ K 9 8 3

♠ Q 7 6  
♥ J 2  
♦ AQ 9 7 5 4  
♣ Q 4

♠ J 10 8 3 2  
♥ K Q 10 9 6  
♦ 3  
♣ 10 2

♠ 9 4  
♥ 8 7 4  
♦ 8 6 2  
♣ AJ 7 6 5

**3**

### Hand 3- NT vs Trump Game?

The question is how to play your hand when you have two 5 card majors with good texture but only 6 HCP. Then he shows how he made a 4S contract.

How the players did:



| Contract | Lead | Result |
|----------|------|--------|
| 2N W     | ♦9   | -1     |
| 3N W     | ♦7   | -1     |
| 2N W     | ♦5   | +1     |
| 2N W     | ♦7   | +2     |
| 2♥ W     | ♣6   | +3     |
| 3♥ W     | ♦A   | +2     |
| 2N W     | ♦7   | +3     |
| 4♥ E     | ♦8   | =      |
| 4♠ W     | ♦A   | =      |
| 4♠ E     | ♦8   | =      |

### Hand 10 - Evaluating Partners and Opponents hands while bidding and the Importance of the Lead.

The question in bidding revolves around encouraging your partner's rebid of diamonds. Whether or not you win your 3NT contract comes down to what S leads. If South leads a heart you go down and if they lead a club you make the contract.

Dir: E 10  
 Vul: Both

|                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>4</p> <p>16 9</p> <p>11</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 6 3</p> <p>♥ A Q</p> <p>♦ A 10 8 2</p> <p>♣ Q 10</p> | <p>♠ Q 10 7 5</p> <p>♥ J 8 5</p> <p>♦ J 7</p> <p>♣ 8 7 6 3</p><br><p>♠ 4 2</p> <p>♥ 9 6 4 2</p> <p>♦ K Q 9 6 4</p> <p>♣ A 9</p><br><p>♠ K J</p> <p>♥ K 10 7 3</p> <p>♦ 5 3</p> <p>♣ K J 5 4 2</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Contract | Lead | Result |
|----------|------|--------|
| 3♦ E     | ♥ 3  | +1     |
| 1N E     | ♣ 4  | +2     |
| 1N E     | ♣ K  | +2     |
| 2♦ W     | ♣ 8  | +3     |
| 3♦ W     | ♥ J  | +2     |
| 3♦ E     | ♥ 3  | +2     |
| 3♦ E     | ♥ 3  | +2     |
| 4♦ E     | ♥ 3  | +1     |
| 2N E     | ♣ 4  | +2     |
| 1N E     | ♣ 2  | +4     |

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***"NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE  
THE WORD ITSELF SAYS  
I'M POSSIBLE!"  
- Audrey Hepburn***

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