

Cypress Northwest DBC & Katy DBC Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club - Sugar Land Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club (LCDBC) Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club Star Duplicate Bridge Club

Contributors Sam Khayatt & Jeff Kroll - In Pursuit of a Minor-Suit Slam Thomas Rush - Memphis was Grand

In Memoriam

From the Editor

Please visit the Unit 174 <u>Website</u> to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



President's Message

Betty Starzec

Thanks to the Outgoing & Welcome Incoming Board Members

With the end of the Election Sectional, we say "Thank You" to our outgoing Unit 174 board members for their service and "Welcome" our new members to the board. Outgoing board members are President Sara Springer, John Du Bose, and John Eric Watson. A warm welcome to our new members Fred Gregory, Cindy Schaefer and Judi Whaling. They are all excited and eager to begin their terms on the board. By the date of this publication we will have held our annual planning meeting and we thank Paul Cuneo for agreeing to facilitate the meeting.

Unit 174's Board Focus

My election as unit president comes with a promise from me to have my focus on creating a cohesive board with a major emphasis on limiting the expenses to stop the drain on our unit's cash assets while trying to schedule future tournaments at various locations throughout the unit. We know the difficulties the game has experienced after COVID-19, from significant losses in our membership to rising costs, our treasury has been substantially diminished. With losses at the Election Sectional (despite the valiant efforts by Chair Peaches Eads and Co-chair Lesley Kellet to keep the costs down) and the Max Levit Lone Star Regional, the board will be taking a very serious look at all ways we can reduce costs while still offering a satisfying tournament experience.

Recent Issue Resolved

One of the most recent issues we dealt with was the recognition that Hilton Head had scheduled its regional opposite ours for the January 26-Feburary 1 week. Hilton Head ran into difficulty in having to change its regular date due to conflicts within the ACBL NABC schedule and the inability of their host hotel to offer another date. With many of the players at our last regional coming from the East Coast, there was recognition that our regional would suffer a significant loss in table count. We were successful in changing the Lone Star Regional to January 19-25, and although we are opposite the Albuquerque regional, we believe our table count will not be significantly impacted.

Sectional Tournament Locations

The board is also trying to schedule its four in-person sectionals for 2026 across the unit – hopefully, with one on the north side and one on the south side. We are asking members to help us in our search for locations throughout our unit. The board had researched a facility close to Conroe and realized the cost was out of reach for us. In the meantime, we will be at Shriner's who offers the space at a very reasonable rate. Please take a look at the June flyer where you will see that a few of the issues brought up by members have been addressed including exiting the facility on Friday where we will have a policeman directing traffic at the end of the game. Karen Nussbaum and Gary Kerr have been working diligently to offer a great tournament to you. While Shriner's may not be the best location for everyone, we hope you will support the unit by attending the sectional and assist us in finding locations that will rotate being fair to all.

Awesome August Sectional Cancelled - STaC Instead

Unfortunately, the board was unable to secure an appropriate venue for the Awesome August Sectional. The D16 Board agreed to let us turn that sectional into a week-long STaC. Clubs will be getting information about this STaC in a few weeks. This again brings to the forefront the need for assistance from our membership to locate new venues. In the meantime, please know that I am certainly open to your suggestions regarding doing what is best for our unit.

Betty Starzec Istarzec@comcast.net

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: Paula Altman, William Cowsar, Paula Divalerio, Rinaldo Divalerio,

Lucie Dunwoody, Kelly Hebert, John Hightower, John Knott, Ann Matthews, Poonam Mittal, Barbara Ryan, Giang Tran, Lindsey Trenholme, Charisse Viator

Transfers: Irene Lee Pagan, Ms. Kumkum Ray

Welcome!



Masterpoint Milestones

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of April 1, 2025. An explanation of ranks may be found on the <u>ACBL website.</u>

Junior Master

Mrs. Sally Bassler, Lecia L Chaney, Emily Sparks

Club Master

Faruk Gopalani, Mrs. Latha Iyer, Mrs. Garlanda G Melton, Eric Sachs, Andra Sammons, John Untereker

Club Masters

Rita P Armstrong, Elizabeth Burton-Flint, Mr. Harry W Elliott, Frank Marino, Pamela P Mock, Rona Simmons

Regional Master

Cherie M Baer, Shangyou S Nie

NABC Master

Ms. Greta Etnyre, Amy S Hart, Mrs. Gail A Hoffman, Lesley Kellet, Anne M Miraglia, Mrs. Marie O'Neal, Mrs. Rogie A Peyton, Wei Xu

Advanced NABC Master

Rubin Chang, Ms. Sherry A Deal, George McKinley, Richard Napientek

Life Master

Mr. James Bettis, Judith P Britton, Mrs. Joy Cowan, Mike Cowan, Robert C Domsalla, Karen P Parker, Mr. William M Shepherd, Ms. Mary Ellen Vail

Bronze Life Master

Mr. James Bettis, Mr. Robert W Dennis

Silver Life Master

Mr. James N Cauble, Marcia Chambliss, Mrs. Nancy D Ferguson, Charlotte A Johns, Betty Westbrook, Jane H Yarian

Ruby Life Master Susan D Domsalla, Gary J Winston, Shari M Winston

Gold Life Master

Mrs. Chloe Ella Fackenthall, Ms. Laura L Jones, Mr. David Wicks

Sapphire Life Master

Dr. Ralph Herz, Mrs. Linda J McReynolds, Ms. Karen Tabak Nussbaum, Harry Selldin

Diamond Life Master

Nelson W Brown, Jr, Mr. Thomas Rush

!!! Congratulations !!!



Unit 174 2024 Masterpoint Races Standings



Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

0-5 Masterpoints

Jessie Y Lee 254.18 Shuangxing Yu 161.23 Xiaoxing Yu 150.61

5-20 Masterpoints

Sherry L Scarborough54.31George W Edwards35.97Lorraine Hart34.99

20-50 Masterpoints

Lesley Kellet	105.56
Mr. Hao Deng	88.52
Jinrong Wang	70.08

50-100 Masterpoints

Dennis D Sucec121.3Mrs. Maria L Turner104.9Kelly Harp53.33

100-200 Masterpoints

Beryl T Booker	171.25
Steve Broderick	118.87
Mariah Stopper	102

200-300 Masterpoints

Robert C Domsalla	196.27
Judi Whaling	193.69
Thomas Dilger	123.69

1000-1500 Masterpoints

Sarah P Springer 317.65 Susan D Domsalla 224.51 Bill Nash 191.76

1500-2500 Masterpoints

Mr. Kas Rangan 347.14 Paddy R Fiorino 288.42 David B Richard 259.33

2500-3500 Masterpoints

Mr. Steven E Bell 420.7 Courtney Coffman 283.72 William E Houck 217.91

3500-5000 Masterpoints

Mr. Thomas Rush 442.99 Mr. Edwin (Ted) C Bain III 350.8 Ms. Susan M Kaplan 331.56

5000-7500 Masterpoints

Dr. Dolores C Aquino861.45Mr. James E Breihan589.34Mrs. Julie Halperin406.09

7500-10,000 Masterpoints

Mr. Kerr M Godfrey 276.73

300-500 Masterpoints

Kyo Chen 278.15 Hua Chen 237.95 Ms. Lois A McCallister 192.76

500-1000 Masterpoints

Mr. William J Churchman 311.59 Kathleen F McDougal 192.61 James D Rozzell 171.94 Mr. Paul Nimmons 274.77 Mrs. Betty Starzec 269.9

Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Eddie Wold1090.48Mr. Jeff McKee729.11Mr. Robert F Morris589.61

Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Race

0-5 Masterpoints

Jessie Y Lee 55.79 Wei Xu 38.57 Joshua Roberts 34.16

5-20 Masterpoints

Sherry L Scarborough 47.99George W Edwards30.93Barbara J Emnett24.61

20-50 Masterpoints

Lesley Kellet 52.9 Larry Lawhorn 41.59 Sally E Ward 36.69

50-100 Masterpoints

Dennis D Sucec62.79Mrs. Maria L Turner52.99Linda D Hensley40.01

100-200 Masterpoints

Beryl T Booker	125.77
Steve Broderick	101.39
Winnie Mohsenzadeh	80.2

200-300 Masterpoints

Judi Whaling 87.36 Mr. Robert D Lane 79.47 Carolyn A Hardy 73.56

300-500 Masterpoints

Ms. Lois A McCallister144.39Robert R Burridge116.27Ms. Joy Pruett89.52

500-1000 Masterpoints

Mr. William J Churchman 226.79 James D Rozzell 150.66 Rubin Chang 113.24

1000-1500 Masterpoints

Mark Incerto135.03A E Dahn134.49Mr. Terry A Sucher 133.76

1500-2500 Masterpoints

David B Richard 199.78 Anita M Rothfuss 198.76 James C Sells 198.31

2500-3500 Masterpoints

Courtney Coffman 217.07 Mr. Steven E Bell 206.48 William E Houck 166.81

3500-5000 Masterpoints

Mr. Arthur J Giovannangel 231.49 Steve N Vaughn 219.66 Mr. James P Ochsner 205.66

5000-75000 Masterpoints

Dr. Allen E Wolf 313.49 Mrs. Julie Halperin 298.78 Mr. Bill Gemas 268.82

7500-10,000 Masterpoints

Mr. Paul Nimmons 236.81 Mr. Kerr M Godfrey 160.56 Mrs. Betty Starzec 158.22

Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Mr. Joe Quinn204.15Mr. David P Henke169.95John P Zilic110.13

Virtual Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Race

0-5 Masterpoints

Shuangxing Yu112.99Xiaoxing Yu102.9Debra Oakes84.72

5-20 Masterpoints

Sandy Krusemark10.1Robert Krusemark10.1Eric Sachs8.1

20-50 Masterpoints

1000-1500 Masterpoints

Bill Nash120.47Debbie L Nash94.63Sarah P Springer 75.12

1500-2500 Masterpoints

Mrs. Liane Tsai 49.66 Sam Khayatt 48.72 Mrs. Aruna Sane 45.19

2500-3500 Masterpoints

Therese L Perez35.07Keith S Bozarth14.74Mr. Stephen H Golub12.08

50-100 Masterpoints

Michael F Graham45.63Elaine McPike41.31Maryann W Wolff18.7

100-200 Masterpoints

Judy A Willig62.42Barbara Craven57.35Richard A Eisenach47.73

200-300 Masterpoints

Thomas Dilger108.2Barbara L Hitt28.32Martha D McWilliams17.16

300-500 Masterpoints

Joseph E Rogers 137.74

Dana C Brown 78.69 Mr. Kris A Digre 70.80 Mary E McDonald 41.20

3500-5000 Masterpoints

Bill Gervais 215.81 Mr. Dale R Crumbaugh 92.76 Mr. Arthur J Giovannangeli 27.26

5000-7500 Masterpoints

Dr. Dolores C Aquino 239.99 Mr. Bill Riley 222.51 Mr. Harry S Elliott 136.75

7500-10,000 Masterpoints

Mr. Bobby R Maynard 49.17Gil Micheletti5.92Timucin Erkoc1.88

Mrs. Elizabeth A Eisena 130.98 Lindy Kahn 80.74

500-1000 Masterpoints

Kathy L'Hommedieu104.15Mr. Michael P O'Shea73.15Mrs. Sara M Rowe65.18

Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Mr. Jeff McKee267.7Mr. Tom M Breed54.72Ms. Sally D Wheeler28.6Mr. Buddy Hanby28.6

Member Profile



We have no member profile this month. If you know someone who we should recognize, please email <u>Unit174News@gmail.com</u>.



Unit News

Coming Tournaments



Date	Citv	State	Unit	Category	Туре
April 30 –	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
May 3	Dallas	IX	170	Ocotional	Open
May 1-4	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
May 2-3	Dallas	TX	D16	GNT	GNT District
					Finals
May 16-18	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Local
May 17-18	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
June 6-8	Midland	TX	209	Sectional	Open
June 6-8	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
June 7-8	Georgetown	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
June 9-15			176	STaC	Open
June 19-22	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
June 30 – July 6	San Antonio	ТХ	172	Regional	Open
July 26-27	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	I/N
August 2-3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
August 7-9	Tyler	ТХ	225	Sectional & I/N Regional	Open & I/N
August 18-24	Houston	TX	174	STaC	Open
August 27 – September 1	Allen [DFW]	ТХ	176	Regional	Open
September 4-7	New Braunfels	TX	172	Sectional	Open
September 11-14	Houston [Spring]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
September 15-21			D16	STaC	Open
September 25-28	Austin	ΤX	207	Sectional	Open
October 2-4	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Local
October 4-5	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
October 10-11	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	I/N
October 15-18	San Antonio	ТХ	172	Sectional	Open
October 17-19	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
October 20-26			D16	STaC	Open
October 29- November 1	Dallas [DFW]	TX	176	Sectional	Open
November 3-9	Houston	ТХ	174	STaC	Open
November 8-9	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
November 13-16	Spring [Houston]	ТΧ	174	Sectional	I/N
December 6-7	Austin	ТΧ	207	Sectional	I/N

You can find tournament information by clicking <u>ACBL Tourneys</u>.

BCOH Twenty-Table Saturday





Saturday, May 17 Club Championship Game (upgraded points)

11:15 AM Lunch

Ham, sides, salads, desserts

12:00 PM Open Pairs

Prizes for section tops! No partner? No problem!

12:00 PM 299er Pairs

Prizes for section tops! No partner? No problem!

4688 Louetta Rd Spring, TX 77388 281-651-6550 Entry: \$10 Questions?: <u>kbl@fastmail.com</u> Register: <u>www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh</u>

Nearly Summer Sectional





BCOH 499er Sectional



BRIDGE

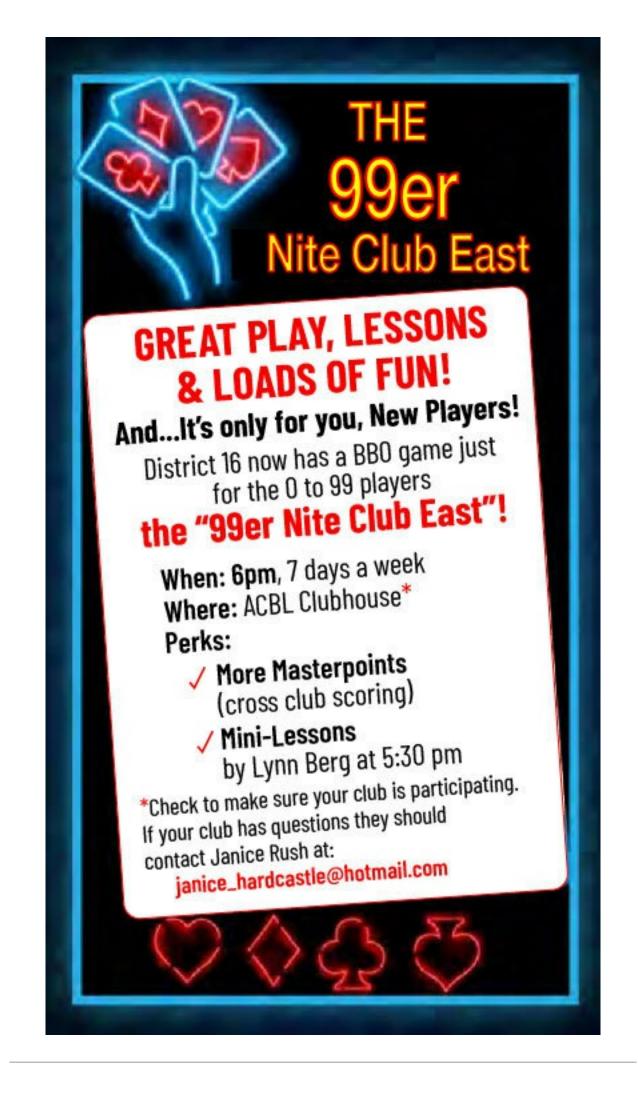
499^{er} Sectional June 19th -21st, 2025

4688 Louetta Rd, Spring, TX | 281-651-6550 | thebridgeclub@sbcbglobal.net

	•		
Event Scl Thursday thru Sat June 19 th – 21 st Sir 499er Pairs 499er Pairs	urday	Lapsed ACBL Members ACBL number required to pla	\$12 \$16
Stratification* A(300-499) B(100-300) C(0-100)		120 day guest membership available free at https://www.acbl.org/members	hip/
* Strats may be modified by Director	Snacks / Lunch Free snacks and drinks. Lune		
Need a Partner? Contact Kas Rangan	available for \$8 <mark>Cash</mark> each da ordered by 10am.	ay if	
539-210-1333 kas.rangan99@gmail.com Ambassador available for all Sessions.		Lodging SpringHill Suites 20303 Chasewood Park Dr., Housto	1.00
 Note BCOH is a fragrant Life Masters with pts can play. 	nce-free facility.	TX 77070 has a discount rate of \$105 + tax per night, and free cancellation 24 hours before check-in. Contact hotel directly at 832-953-2228 and ask for Imagine Peels and mention	
Tourname Charles Woody & woody@okwo	32-443-4412	BCOH Bridge Tournament.	
Silver Poin	ts – Silver	Points – Silver Point	ts

99er Nite Club





199er Nite Club



199er Nite Club East

Ready to Graduate from the 0 to 99 Game?

D16's 199er NITE CLUB EAST GAME ON BBO IS YOUR NEXT STEP! 7 DAYS & WEEK AT 6:00 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 go 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 cointue to receive payments for their participating players.

Clubs must be signed up to participate, just like for the 99er NITE CLUB game. Contact Janice Rush for details: janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com

Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both

Face-to-Face (F2F) and Online. The following information might be interesting:

<u>Year</u>	Table Count	Number of Clubs in Unit 174
2019	32,137.00	30
2020	30,401.00	28
2021	30,365.00	24
2022	20,451.00	24
2023	18,183.00	25
2024	16,900.00	24

The ACBL website is still broken however, ACBL Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins was able to provide a tool that she is using to gather this information. The following numbers are the Unit 174 table counts from January 1- April 21, 2025 :

Total Tables:	5,150
Total F2F:	4,565
Total Online:	213
Total Swiss Teams:	367

We are down to 22 clubs from 24 at the end of 2024. The top five clubs are:

- 1. Clear Lake Bridge Club:
- 2. Bridge Club of Houston:
- 3. Bridge Academy of West Houston: 686 Tables, all F2F
- 4. Lone Star Bridge Club:
- 5. Apple II DBC

1,366 Tables, all F2F 902.5 Tables, 689 F2F, 213 Online 686 Tables, all F2F 470 Tables, all F2F 283 Tables, all F2F

One other bit of information, Unit 174's Clear Lake Bridge Club is still the District 16 leader for F2F tables with 1366, followed by Bridge Center of Austin with 1047, and Bridge Club of Houston with 902 tables. So, Unit 174 has two clubs in the top three for District 16.



Club News

Below please find the information reported by some of the clubs in our unit. Please send your club news to: <u>unit174news@gmail.com</u>.

Additional information about all of the clubs can be found on the <u>Unit 174 website</u>. 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 \$3.00 / person.

New Clubs' Policy:

APPLE clubs (Susan and Tom) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less then 50 points.

APPLE II **upped** the offer: The normal game fee of \$3.00 / person will be *waived* if the pair has less than 100 MP's on average, so all of you FLMs should come on out on Friday and test your skill at *no cost*! In addition, any player who pairs up with someone under 100 points plays for *FREE*! Since many of our 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!

Apple will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

All Apple II Friday games are Grass Roots Fund for the month of May except on May 9.

Friday, May 9 is a Stardust Pop Up game offering colored points at the club for players who need or want them.

For information, please contact:

Monday – Apple – Susan Johnson <u>sisbjohnson@gmail.com</u> - 281-536-1451

Friday – Apple II – Tom Jahnke tomtomj211@yahoo.com - 713-777-0333

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.



Bridge Academy of West Houston

Sandy Clark - Farewell Party

On Thursday, April 17, friends and bridge partners gathered to bid farewell to Sandy Clark as she prepares to move to Salt Lake City. Sandy, who has played bridge for over 80 years, will be deeply missed. The event was filled with delicious food, laughter, and warm memories. Thanks to all who came out to wish Sandy Bon Voyage!



Outer circle: Buddy Hanby, Rick Barrett, Marsha Bernstein & Linda Rensi Inner circle: Dolores Aquino, Sally Wheeler, Lesley Kellet & Sandy Clark

"I first met Sandy many years ago when she and her husband, Jim, played in a team game with my wife, Jerri, and me. In 2008 we both had lost our spouses. We were standing in line to buy bridge entries and Sandy asked me to partner with her, I was thrilled because she is an excellent player while I was not. This marked the beginning of our seventeen-year partnership.

Sandy has taught me to become a usually capable player, and she continues to point out my all-too-frequent lapses. I once mentioned that my mother became grouchy as she got older and I asked Sandy when she became a friendly curmudgeon; without missing a beat she replied age 12!

I will greatly miss her partnering in person. We will continue our partnership online after she relocates to Salt Lake City." – Rick Barrett

"Sandy Clark has been a beloved fixture in the Houston bridge scene for over 50 years. She originally played with her husband before he passed away several years ago. Together, they were a serious menace and frequently took good boards away from their opponents.

She was also quite active socially and hosted many parties and other activities at her home. She was the hostess for Buddy and Sally's wedding. They were starving students at the time.

She is one of the few players who use a weak NT which she does with great effectiveness, much to the dismay of the other players. Can anyone get her to stop?

Now she is going to Utah to be closer to her daughter. Many tried to prevent this disaster for the Houston bridge scene but without success. Are there any last-ditch efforts possible?"

– Joe Quinn

"She is a very good friend who was a regular teammate and bridge mentor when we were young.

We were supposed to get married on the campus of Rice U. and hold the

reception at Sandy's house. It rained, so we actually got married in Sandy's living room.

Did you know that Sandy was a beachcomber? Whenever she went somewhere near the ocean, she combed the beaches for shells. She once found a lefthanded specimen of a certain type of shell--one in a million. For many years, Sandy's shell was on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science"

– Buddy Hanby



Karen Nussbaum's & Harry Seldin's **Sapphire** Life Master Party

A **Sapphire** Life Master party was held on Apr 23 to celebrate Harry Seldin and Karen Nussbaum achieving the rank of Sapphire Life Master.

Harry Seldin & Karen Nussbaum Sapphire Life Masters

Co-hosts Kathy McDougall and Sherry Withers expressed their gratitude to Karen and Harry for partnering with them and serving as mentors. Kathy highlighted Karen's years of service on the unit board and her key role in

organizing tournaments. Sherry noted that Harry consistently arrives early for the Wednesday game to make coffee – an essential contribution.

Thank you, Karen and Harry, for your dedication, and congratulations on achieving the rank of Sapphire Life Master!

Change to Game Schedule

The Thursday game was previously an Invitational event, limited to nonprofessional players and excluding the top ten ranked players in Unit 174.

Beginning May 1st, the Thursday game will become an *Open* game so anyone may play. In addition, a separate 499er game will also be offered.

Upcoming Events

A celebration for Lauri Laufman and Jim Woodward, honoring their achievement of Ruby Life Master and Silver Life Master, will be held on May 21st. Please coordinate with party host Beverly Linskey regarding food and appetizer contributions.

Mentor/Mentee

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

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

May 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.

8 is enough Swiss Teams

Our 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held monthly on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The next game will be held on

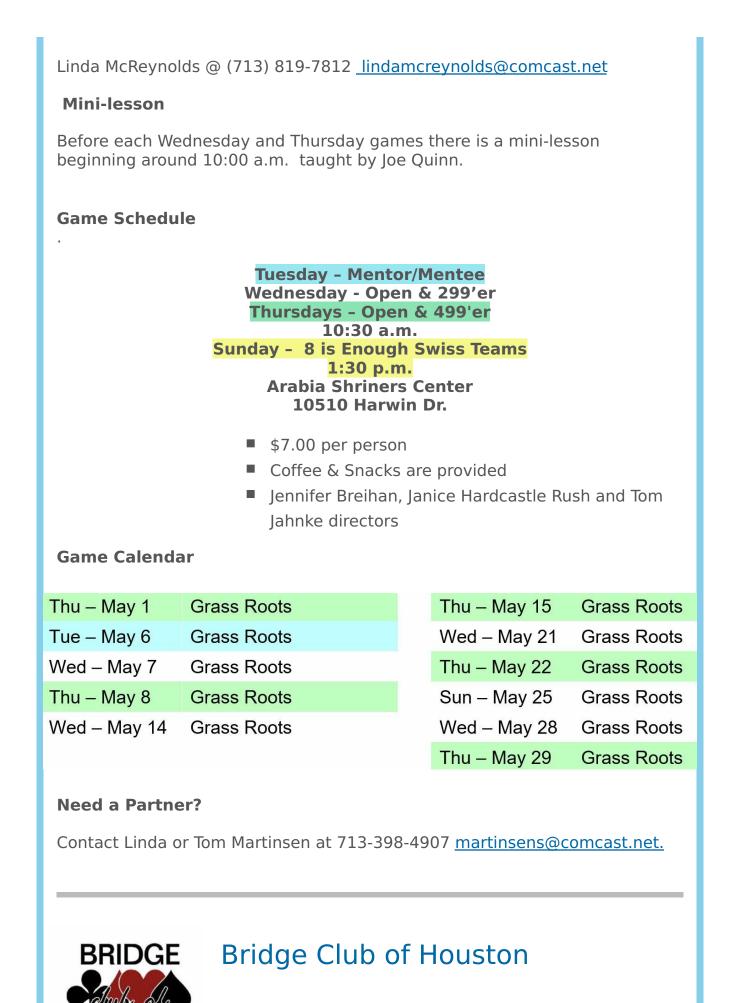
May 29th – 8 is enough Swiss Teams

The Swiss Teams 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 has become an extremely popular event. For help finding teammates contact:



Please consult our monthly calendar online for updates and complete listings: <u>BCOH Calendar</u>.

Lessons

HOUSTON

- Tuesday Tidbits Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson for all from 9:30-
 - 10:10 a.m. A game follows at 10:30 a.m. Text Julie at 713-857-8004 for more information.
- New Beginner classes will start in July. Watch for more information in subsequent issues.

Practice for Intermediate/Newcomers

- FLM 0-49 Game Sundays at 1:30 PM, \$5 fee. For more information, please contact <u>BridgewithCarol@gmail.com</u>, 936-650-8180.
- F2F Mentor Games 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. To be matched with a mentor, for 2nd Tuesday call or text Judy Cupps, 713-320-5592, for fourth Tuesday call or text Bob Ziegler, 713-829-692
- Online Mentor Game 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m, (Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: <u>mlinkins@swbell.net</u>
- Online 0-20 Game 2nd Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. (usually).
- F2F 299er Game Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. (noon), for a partner or to register contact Kas Rangan, <u>kas.rangan@gmail.com</u>, 539-210-1333.
- I/N Game less 1000 Fifth Tuesday of any month.

For more information about the games, please see **<u>BCOH website</u>**.

F2F Open Pairs Games

- Mondays 11:55 a.m.
- 1st & 5th Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30 a.m.
- Saturdays 12:00 p.m. (noon)

F2F Swiss Teams

• 3rd Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.

Online - Choose Houston! (BBO®)

• Thursdays 7:00 p.m., <u>SE Carolina Club of Clubs</u>

Coming Attractions

- May 5-11 Stardust Week, regular game times
- May 10 Bob & Susan Domsalla Life Master & Ruby Life Master Party Lunch at 11:15 a.m., Stardust Games at 12:00 p.m. (noon)
- May 12-14 & 16-18 Club Championship Week, regular game times
- May 17 Twenty Table Saturday (See flyer above) Lunch at 11:15 a.m., Open & 299er
 - Games at noon, Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!
- May 19-21 Silver Slivers Week 25% silver points, regular game times
- May 23-24 Grass Roots, regular game times
- May 26 Memorial Day Hot Diggity Dog Lunch at 11:00 a.m., Game 11:55 a.m.,
 - Bring sides to share
- May 29-June 1 Stardust Week 25% gold points, regular game times
- May 31 Thomas Rush Diamond Life Master Party Lunch at 11:15 am Lunch, Stardust Games 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Save the Dates!





Please join us in celebrating

Bob and Susan

Domsalla

on achieving

Life Master & Ruby Life Master

Bridge Club of Houston Saturday, May 10 Lunch at 11:15 Open and 299er Stardust Games at Noon.

Bob will furnish pulled pork, bringing something to share is optional but apprecitated. Please register at www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh



Please join us in celebrating Thomas Rush on achieving

Diamond Life Master

Bridge Club of Houston Saturday, May 31 Lunch at 11:15 Open and 299er Stardust Games at Noon.

Fully catered lunch and cake will be served. Please register at www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh







On June 21, join us at BCOH for The Longest Day Benefit in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Lots of specials and surprises are in the works and this year the benefit is in conjunction with our 499er Tournament! Watch for more information next month's *Unit 174 Newsletter* and on the BCOH website.

Betty Cartmell's Life Master Party



Check the <u>BCOH Website</u> for more including details, potlucks and points each week.

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.

Mentored Pairs 1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:00 PM Open Pairs Thursday @ 7:00 PM Future Life Masters Tuesday (0-50) @ 3:05 PM* 2nd Saturday (0-20) @ 9:00 AM* *usually - see flm174.org for dates SE Carolina Consortium https://sites.google.com/view/se-club-of-clubs/home





Clear Lake Bridge Club

Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC) is located at 16614 Sear Lark, Houston, Texas 77062.

Games are held every day of the week. The club closes for Unit 174 tournaments, Christmas and Easter. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

Weekly Game Schedule:

Open Games: Monday - Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 a.m., Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m. 0-299 Games: Monday and Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. 0-749 Games: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

0-99 Game: Saturday 1:00 p.m.

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

8 is Enough Swiss Teams: Is usually on the first Sunday (May 11) each month. It is moved to the second Sunday when there is a sectional tournament or The Longest Day Event.

The 8 is Enough Swiss Teams stratifications are:

Level 1 – 0-749 masterpoints (1) **Level 2** – 750-1999 masterpoints (2) **Level 3** – 2000+ 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.

Partnership/Team Building:

Chuck Ensor will assist anyone to get a team organized for any of the Sunday Swiss Teams games. You can either call Chuck at 713-502-0282 or <u>email</u> him.

Mentor/Mentee Game:

Every third Wednesday (May 21) afternoon at 2:00 p.m. (Moves for The Longest Day and regional tournaments)

This game is held directly after the morning open game. Sandwiches are served for lunch. Reservations must be made in advance by noon on the prior Monday.

Mentees must be Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints. The Mentee pays the game fee for the Mentor. For information and to submit a contact form, please visit the <u>CLBC MM site</u> or contact Susan Hanna at <u>s.l.hanna@gmail.com</u>

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

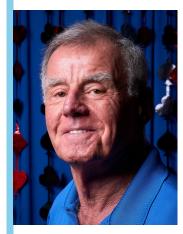
Game table fee is \$6.00 for members, \$7.00 for guests.

Bridge Labs (Supervised Play): Sunday and Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Check out<u>www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education</u> for new classes offered in 2025.

Club News

PREVIOUSLY...



Congratulations to Nelson Brown, Our Newest Diamond Life Master

Prior to the open morning game on April 14, Nelson Brown was celebrated with food, cake and speeches. He was also presented with a diamond tack pin. Nelson is an integral and treasured member of our club and an outstanding representative of our beloved game.

Nelson Brown Diamond Life Master

Congratulations, Nelson!

Masterpoint Milestone Party

On Wednesday, April 16, between the morning and afternoon games, 64 CLBC members were honored for achieving a new rank during the preceding 12 months. From Emerald Life Master to Rookie, we presented them with small tokens of their achievement. See the following for who was recognized: Emerald Life Master Dolores Aquino

Diamond Life Master Nelson Brown

Sapphire Life Master Dana Brown

Gold Life Master Paddy Fiorino, David Glandorf

Ruby Life Master Danuta Parzych, Irene White

Silver Life Master Linda Aaron, Dave Bradt, Marcia Chambliss, Brad Chandler, Darlyn Dusek, Lynn Hershey, Shirley Kingsley, Johnell McKee, Ronnie Martin, Madhu Moza, Betty Westbrook

Bronze Life Master Ann Bragg, Robert Burridge, Renata Frutiger, Steven Kaplan

Life Master Joy Cowan, Mike Cowan, Barbara Sweeney, Mary Ellen Vail

Advanced NABC Master Beryl Booker, Rubin Chang, Penny Dougherty, Mike Hanna, Susan Hanna

> NABC Master Beverly Gebhart. Jim Moore, Marie O'Neal, Paula Towner, Bob Yelli

> > Regional Master Terrance Harris

Sectional Master Rodney Armstrong, Randal Clements, Dru Dalton, George Edwards, Lorraine Hart, Dianne Hilkemeier, Karel Kriel, Noella Lambert

Club Master Rita Armstrong, Russ Hall, Sharon Hall, Janet Jordan, Patricia Leavesley, Margaret Sample, Stephen Schrader

Junior Master Sandra Brezina, Jay Jorns, Eva Domene Molnar

Rookie Tom Bell, Beverly Braden, Danielle Donnelly, Chris Feng, Judy Grimm, Brian Kashiwagi, Cindy Martin, Alicia Muehlenbrock, Kate Nicoletti

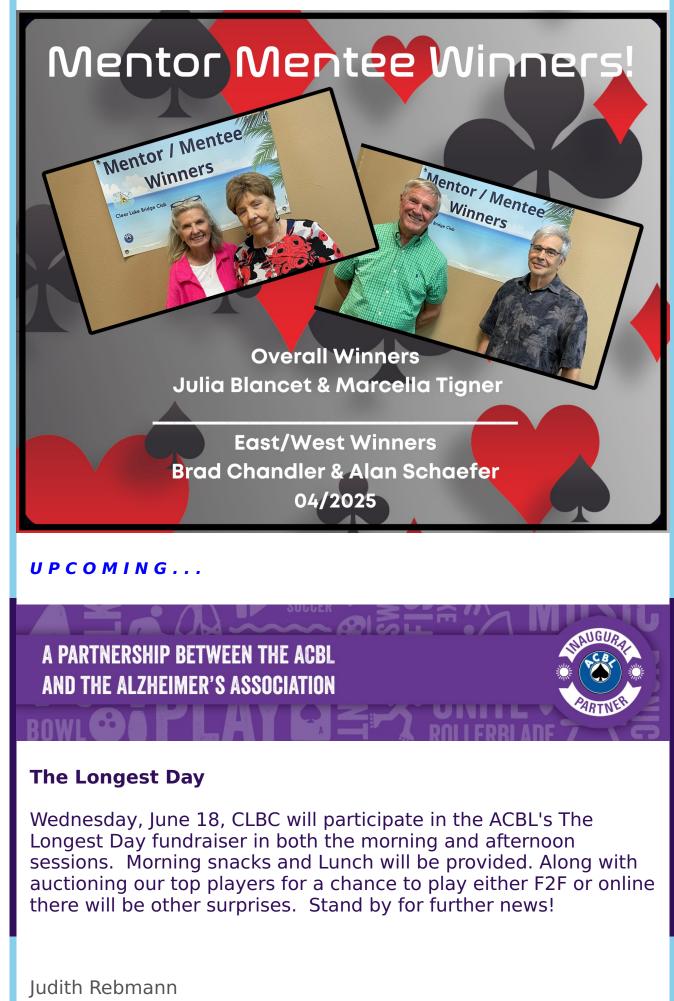
National Recognition for Ace of Clubs

Bill Churchman was awarded the National ACBL Ace of Clubs Award in the 500-1000 masterpoint category, accumulating 227 masterpoints. Bill joined CLBC in November, 2021 and has become an integral part of our club, elected treasurer and recently becoming a director. Congratulations, Bill. We are so happy you chose to join us.

We also congratulate Beryl Booker, recognized for winning 126 points and coming in 8th in the National ACBL Ace of Clubs category for players with 100-200 masterpoints.

Make sure you check out the Unit 174 2024 Masterpoint Races Standings to see our members who made it into the top three standings for our unit.

Our April Mentor/Mentee Winners



2nd vice president

P.S.

For more information, please visit our <u>website</u>.



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.

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.

Let's Make Bridge Fun Again

- 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 are available immediately.
- Our directors are all fully qualified, gentle and experienced.
- All five April games are upgraded and are still \$8.00.

CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME. CONTACT:

John Eric Watson ewat2004@aol.com 832 287 9107



KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games:

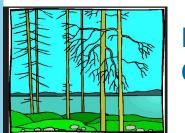
Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

On Thursday mornings, 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.

On Thursday, October 24th and 31st, the game will not be held due to early voting.

However, the games will be held on Wednesday.

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

May 2025

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so players new to duplicate will feel comfortable; and seasoned players will find a challenge. We would like to invite you and your bridge friends to join us every Friday. We meet at the Restoration Church, 107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare, Montgomery. When you enter the parking lot, drive around to the back of the property to the parking log of the newer Worship Center and the older Children's Church building. Our games are held in the older Children's Church building because it has easy access with no stairs or ramps.

We begin playing at 10:30 am. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. We will take a break midday, so please bring your lunch. There is a refrigerator and a microwave for your use if needed.

If you need a partner, please contact Carol Meade at 281-543-4541 or email her at <u>meadecm@icloud.com</u> and she will do her best to assist you to get a partner.

All May games are Grass Root Fund:

- May 2
- May 9
- May 16
- May 23 Game & Pizza Day Lunch Provided
- May 30

We welcome you to join us on Friday's at LCDBC and look forward to seeing all of you at the table.

Please contact me either by phone or email if you have any questions regarding playing at our Club.

Penny Grassedonio Club Manager 832-361-4577 <u>czthdaypjg@gmail.com</u> 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.

Open games are held Mondays at 11:45 am and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Mentor/Mentee games are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to play in the mentor mentee game, please contact Anita Rothfuss (936-527-5039 or <u>larryandanita@gmail.com</u>). Jeff Kroll gives a *free lesson* the first Monday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

Need a partner? Contact our partnership chairman Sandra Maalouf (832-283-1674 or <u>smaalouf@icloud.com</u>).

> Snacks, coffee & bottled water are provided. Game fee is \$5.00.

Announcements

New Board Members were elected in April. The Lone Star Bridge Club 2025-2026 Board of Directors are: President - Carol Jenkinson Vice President - Lynn Clark Secretary - Steve Broderick Treasurer - Gerry Stevenson Members at large: John Erickson Julie Farnsworth Donna Frederick Linda Hensley Judi Sulzbach

May Events

Monday, May 5 – Game, May Birthdays cake will be served & Free bridge lesson with Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll at 11:00 a.m. Game begins at 11:45 a.m. Jeff's class will conitnue to cover parts two and three from his class started in April.

Tuesday, May 8 – Game & Free Pizza Lunch Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day Party at 11:00 a.m.

Please visit our website by clicking <u>here</u>. You may also contact Mary McDonald, club manager at <u>maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com</u> or 281-964-7212.



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.



STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and are \$5.00 per person.

You must have a partner.

For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or <u>richard.duble@yahoo.com</u> or visit our <u>website</u>.



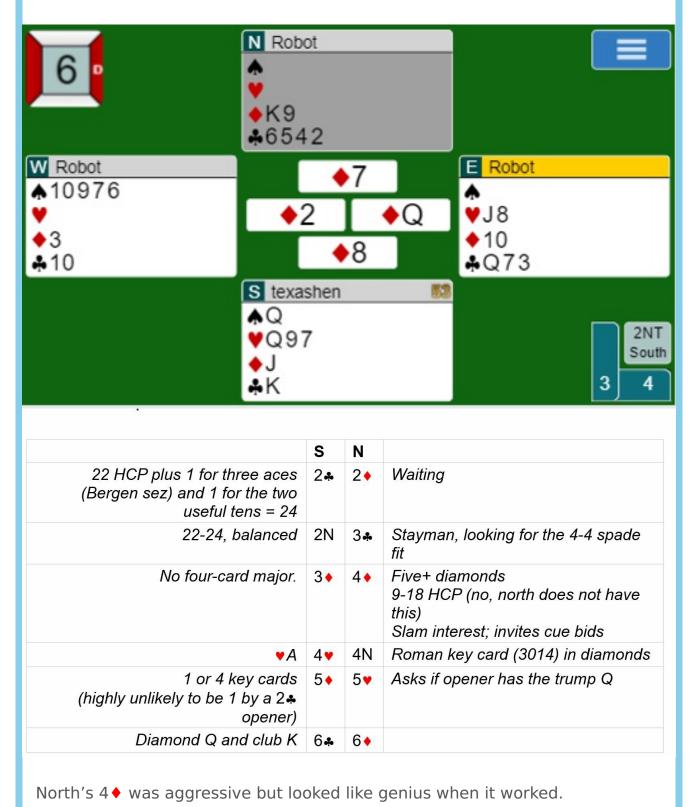
Contributors



In Pursuit of a Minor-Suit Slam

BY SAM KHAYATT & JEFF KROLL

Generally speaking, we do not bid past 3NT to look for a minor suit contract... unless we are looking for a slam. East-West is silent throughout the following auction.



The defense (East) opened with the ♥K. Declarer (North) won the ♥A, drew

trump in two rounds and pitched the other two hearts on the &AK. Next, the A was played, and one spade trick was lost. The rest of tricks were made by crossruffing. Making 6.

Sam Khayatt and Jeff Kroll are frequent contributors to the Unit 174 Monthly Newsletter, coauthors 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. Sam and Jeff have both been recipients of the District 16 Teacher of the Year award. Both Sam and Jeff teach bridge.

Memphis Was Grand



BY THOMAS RUSH

In the April *Newsletter* I talked about the many Unit 174 players who won masterpoints at the Spring 2025 Memphis NABC. Here are comments on Memphis as a location and two of my favorite hands from the event.

More Comments about Memphis

Let's start with non-bridge. Memphis seemed "emptier" than it had at the last NABC held there. For one, the trolley (at least the one by the convention center) was not in service. Last time I'd stayed a mile and a quarter away and while we could walk, it was sometimes more convenient (and a lot quicker) to Uber or take the trolley straight down Main Street. This time many commercial buildings near the convention center seemed to be empty, including restaurants, and some were undergoing renovation.

Terrific Restaurants

We did find some terrific and unexpectedly good restaurants. SAGE, ECCO, and JEM amongst them. SAGE and JEM were small, chef-owned restaurants that had very small menus (JEM was four main course dishes), but the quality of the food was extremely high, delightful – as was the quality of service. The prices were also reasonable. Flight was a fancier establishment that had small plates of a theme grouped in three so you could order a flight of three related dishes – three different fish, or three game meat dishes, for instance. It was an interesting concept, and we found that ordering two was enough for a meal. Many others dined at Flight and also spoke of it highly. It was only a few blocks from the playing site, easily walkable. Yes, we also found good BBQ at a couple of places (Corky's and Blues City Cafe were the ones we tried). As a bonus, Blues City Cafe had THE BEST fried shrimp I've ever had. Plump, cooked perfectly, huge size, very light breading... oh my gosh!

Okay, enough of that stuff.

On to the Bridge!

Saturday started two main events, the Jacoby Swiss Teams, and the Women's Open Swiss Teams. Both events had a day one qualifying and day two finals. In a first for NABC Swiss events, the events featured hand records, so that in each event, everyone played the same hands each round (everyone played 1-7 in their first match, 8-14 their second match, etc.). This is more work for the organizers, but we had hand records and there weren't rounds where some teams had "swingy" boards where it was easy to score IMPs, and others had flatter boards likely to yield low IMP differences.

I played in the Jacoby and my wife, Janice, got a team together to play in the Women's teams which had 29 teams entered, 16 qualifying for the day 2 finals. While Janice's team didn't qualify for day 2, the team did win two matches that earned .84 platinum masterpoints, and they had a lot of fun playing against both friends and stars like Kitty Cooper, Lynne Feldman, Sylvia Shi, and Janice Seamon-Molson.

My team didn't fare much better in the Jacoby Swiss, winning only three matches for 1.59 platinum, we did have some really interesting hands. I was playing with a partner new to me, Stephen Castellino, whom many know as Frog1948 on BBO®. On our third hand of the day, I picked up these cards:

<u>East</u> ♠82 ♥A7 ♦AK ♣AJ98742

After South's initial pass, partner opens 1NT, 14+ to 17. The opponents will pass for the rest of the auction. What's your call?

Lots of thoughts went through my head. Gerber is no good, of course; if we're off one ace, I don't know if we can make five or six, NT or clubs. We did have the tools to transfer to clubs and find out if partner had a top honor or not, so I chose to bid 2, which showed six or more clubs, weak or game-going. Partner bid 3. which showed that he held the A, K, or Q. This was good, but what now? I still have the issue that one key card doesn't tell me if the limit of the hands is five or six. In our system, a bid of a suit after the minor transfer shows a shortage – expected to be a singleton or void – and I chose the "least lie" I could think of by bidding 3, hopefully misleading Stephen

only a bit. I believe I was hoping that this would be more likely to get him to cooperate with no diamond control, while bidding 3 vight make him "put the brakes on" since I knew he had no diamond control.

Then Stephen cuebid the A over my 3. I can't speak to why he skipped hearts, but I was thrilled - we didn't have two guick spade losers, and a spade lead would come up to his AK (if that's what he had), not through it. I also assumed he at least somewhat liked his hand for slam.

I now bid 4., by our agreement, key card for clubs, often called *Minorwood*. He responded 4NT, two key cards with the &Q. Now I've got a big decision which required me to answer two questions:

- 1. This is our *third hand!* Have I read his bids right? Has he read mine? Is 4NT really two with the queen, or is he trying to sign off? If we're on track so far, will he take a 5 • call as an ask for kings?
- 2. I know he's got only the A and A and A kQ, nine of his points. Where are his other six to eight points? Are we assured of having 13 tricks?

I can't do anything about 1; if I'm wrong about our bids, we're sunk anyway, so I'll worry about tricks. Lessee... seven clubs, two diamonds, the two major suit aces. That's 11 tricks. So many things give us 13: both major suit kings, the diamond queen and a major suit king, or something like ♥KQJx or ♠AKQJ. All those only give him 15 HCP. Although I don't think I thought it at the table, his 'horror hand' would be something like ♠AQxx, ♥QJx, ♦Jxx, ♣KQx... 11 top tricks, and needing to rely on two finesses for 13. That's only a 25% grand, a bet no one should take.

So I decided that 7 is a good shot if he has a king, I need to ask for kings, and so I did:

(14 + - 17)	1NT	2 🌢	(Transfer to clubs)
(A top club honor)	3 🐥	3 🔶	(Diamond shortage)
(Control cuebid)	3	4 🐥	(Key card ask)
(Two keys + 🖧Q)	4NT	5 🔶	(Any kings?)

5. would have been a sign-off. Since he had shown the &Q already. The next step over his 4NT reply to 4. that wasn't NT or the trump suit asked for kings. The king ask guarantees we hold all the key cards, and allows partner to bid 7 if he has a source of tricks (which I don't expect after a 1NT opening, but suppose he held ♠Axx, ♥KQJTx, ♦xxx, ♣KQx – knowing that we have all the key cards and that I have at least six clubs, he can count one spade, five hearts, one diamond, and six clubs for 13!

In any case, he showed me the VK over 5 • and I took what I thought was a slight risk in bidding 7.4. I can count 12 tricks (14, 14, 24, 74, plus his king). The combined chances of him having the \blacklozenge Q, the queen with his king, a squeeze or defensive error on the run of the clubs, or a favorable lead made me do it. Note that I didn't bid 7NT; in IMP scoring, the difference between slam in NT and slam in a minor is very slim, whereas the difference between making and going down in any game or slam is huge. Clubs might allow partner to do something like set up a side suit with ruffs -- such as \blacklozenge JXXXX or Kxxxx in his major suit -- so it has a lot of added chances over 7NT.

Here are the hands:

West	East
♠AQ7	♠A82
♥K65	♥A7
♦QJ74	♦ AK
♣ KQ3	♣AJ98742

Thirteen tricks proved to be no challenge when the \blacklozenge QJ were both winners. He and I were both jazzed to have had this kind of successful auction on just our third hand as a partnership.

How good is your table feel?

Matt Granovetter writes some interesting books on bridge that don't seem to apply. He's written murder mysteries that will improve your bridge, and more recently, *Method Bridge*, that espouses how the techniques of method acting can make you a better bridge player. Seriously.

One of the techniques I picked up from that book is using affirmations, selfreinforcing statements, that help your mind to handle situations more confidently. One of the affirmations I often use before a tournament is, "I am unusually perceptive. I have great table feel." Here is a hand I played in the first session of the Jacoby Swiss where table feel was critically important:

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
♦ Q75	♠AJ6
♥KQ103	♥AJ9
♦76	♦ÂJ
\$ 10943	AKQ76

I was East, and after three passes I opened 2C, strong, forcing, artificial. Partner bid 2 ◆ (waiting). Using Kokish Relay, I bid 2 ♥ to force Stephen to bid 2 ♠ (which he did), and then I bid 2NT to set a game force and showing a 25+ HCP NT hand. (Yes, you might only see 24 by blind obedience to 4-3-2-1, but experts add a point for having all four aces and adding a point for a good five-card suit. HCP are a tool to give you a rough approximation of the *trick-taking potential* of your hand; when you know your hand has greater tricktaking potential, you need to upgrade it, and likewise, when you have lower trick-taking potential, downgrade it.)

Stephen used Puppet Stayman 3. over my 2NT, and I answered 3NT, no 4card major. He invited slam with 4NT, and showing the courage of my conviction (or foolishness; I guess we'll see), I took us to 6NT.

The opening lead from South was the $\blacklozenge K$, so I knew where the $\blacklozenge Q$ was as well. I count 11 top tricks, and with the diamond lead I can't afford to lose the lead even once, lest they bury me in an avalanche of diamonds. Without the diamond lead, I'd be safe taking a mundane spade finesse to guarantee 12 winners. Here... what to do?

Well, I need the \blacklozenge J as a potential squeeze threat, so I won the \blacklozenge A at trick one. Next came five clubs, and then four hearts. I have this end position with the lead in West (to the left here):

Dummy	<u>My Hand</u>
♠Q75	♦ AJ
• -	♦ J

I have three possible plays for my 12th trick:

- 1. Take the spade finesse.
- 2. Play low to the A and hope to drop the A, making my A good.
- 3. Or, if the ♠K doesn't drop under ♠A, hope that North has kept ♠Kxx of spades and will have to return a spade when he wins the ♠K.

I know that there are three spades and three diamonds in the opponents' hands.

The opponents' discards on clubs and hearts weren't very helpful, certainly nothing definitive. After some consideration, I played the $\bigstar 5$ to $\bigstar A$ and the $\bigstar K$ came fluttering down from South. Now I played the $\bigstar J$ to the $\bigstar Q$, and the seven was good, since north had pitched down to two spades and a diamond. Six bid and made with an overtrick.

South had made a *terrible* IMP error, of course; he only needed to take two tricks to set 6NT, which would likely have been a fantastic IMP score given my overbidding. Instead he got greedy, tried to set me two tricks, and paid the price. All he needed to do was to pitch down to $AKx \diamond Q$ and I would not have been able to make the hand as I played it. (If I could have led from my hand, that position would have allowed me to endplay South by leading my diamond and forcing him to lead away from the AK, but I'd already locked myself in dummy for the spade play.)

Those were two nice hands in the Jacoby Swiss qualifying event. Too bad, we didn't qualify for the finals, but that's the way things break at the NABC events. It's still worthwhile to get in there and play against the very best; that's how you both get better, and also get stories!

Hoping to see you at a tournament soon!

Thomas Rush is a regular contributor to the newsletter, served on the unit 174 board and is a bridge teacher who lives in the Houston 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 <u>PlayBridgeWithThomas@gmail.com</u>, or 832-228-7835.

In Memoriam



* Mrs. Kathy Hughes, Missouri City Joan M. Shack, 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 Betty Starzec, Unit 174 Board President - <u>Istarzec@comcast.net</u>.

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 <u>unit174news@gmail.com</u>.