

# Hello

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# MARCH!



## Unit 174 March 2026 Newsletter



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This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

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#### Contributors

*Safety Plays by Jimmy Breihan*

#### In Memoriam

#### From the Editor

Please visit the Unit 174 [Website](#) to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



Betty Starzec

## President's Message

### **Election Sectional**

Our Election Sectional is just a short month away with online voting available from March 10 - April 6. Please read about our candidates who are willing to give their time and effort for the betterment of our unit. Your vote is important – please plan to vote whether online, by mail or in person. It is my sincere hope that you put the Election Sectional on your calendar – April 10-12 – where we will have our annual Membership Meeting between sessions on Saturday. We will provide an overall view of the health of the unit as well as recognize the various honors and achievements of our unit members.

We will also announce the successful candidates who will become our new board members. As a reminder, we will be serving the ice cream bars that have been stored from the regional for an extra treat! For those who didn't get their 2026 Houston Regional appliques, they will be available at the Hospitality Desk.

### **D16 Board Meetings**

As many of you know, Unit 174 is just one of more than 300 units across the ACBL. We are a part of District 16, which is one of 25 districts in the ACBL. Our district holds three meetings per year – one at the Houston Lone Star Regional (LSR), one in Dallas at the Labor Day Regional and one that occurs in July in either Austin or San Antonio at the 4th of July Regional. At the LSR meeting, the district recognized outgoing president, our own Jack LaVigne and welcomed Jamie Southerland from Austin as our new D16 president. The meetings go over the health of the district from monetary and membership standpoints among other things. I mention this because of the updated membership stats that every member should be aware of. First, it should not be surprising to anyone that our overall district and unit membership numbers have fallen.

### **Unit 174 Population**

Our unit in January 2021 consisted of 2,420 members and January 2026 consisted of 2,004. *However, the important number is that our membership consists of 1,500 NON-LIFE MASTERS, which is just about 75% of our membership. Members with 0-5 masterpoints number 587, which is 25% of our unit.* It should be obvious to everyone that we should have a commitment to nurture and encourage our newer members in every way possible. The unit offers monetary support to clubs who offer Mentor-Mentee games. I encourage all clubs and club managers to support their newer players and take advantage of this program to help support this extremely important part of our membership population.

### **Photos for Tournament Daily Bulletins**

Inside the [Barbara Phillips](#) Lone Star Regional Daily Bulletins you received during our regional, you will notice that many event winners had their pictures printed in the bulletin. However, not everyone had their picture shown. The reason for this is that Fast Results needs your picture to be able to include it in a bulletin. As well, Fast Results will show your rank advancements but they also need your picture. The following information was printed in the daily bulletins on how to provide this information to Fast Results, but I thought I would share again how to send your picture.

- Crop a picture of yourself to headshot size
- Save the picture as jpg with filename: ACBL#.jpg, e.g. 1234567.jpg
- Must be rectangular, portrait (not landscape) and max height 150 pixels
- Email the jpg to Jane Huerta at [fastresults@bridgefinesse.com](mailto:fastresults@bridgefinesse.com)
- To change your picture, follow the same procedure

If Fast Results has your picture, it will be shown whenever you are first – at any regional using the Fast Results Bulletins and the NABCs. Jay Evert did a great job with our bulletins this year and has provided this information for us. Many thanks, Jay!

See you at the tables!

Betty Starzec  
[lstarzec@comcast.net](mailto:lstarzec@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:** Qunhong Chen, Emily Incerto, Anthony Kelly, Jianbo Li, Howard Schreiber, Dongfeng Tan, Liz Wheeler

**Transfers:** Mr. Tom M Breed, Larry Cheung, Carolyn M Worsham

**Welcome!**



## Masterpoint Milestones

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of February 1, 2026. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

### Junior Master

Patricia Blandford, Judy Briggs, Doris Fujii, Mary Leary, Jennifer Plummer, Jane E Vallier

### Club Master

Gwendolyn Miller, Clifford Venier

### Sectional Master

Mrs. Kathy L Fechik, Veronica L Hines

### Regional Master

Rajni Amin, Margaret E Lanier, Deborah Zissman, Rita Zwartkruis

### Life Master

Lindy Kahn, Mr. Thomas M O'Donnell

### Silver Life Master

Debbie Cole, Mr. Lunhui Lin

### Gold Life Master

Mr. Fred Mueller

## Masterpoint Races

### 2025 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Standings



#### 0 to 5 Ace of Clubs

Frank Marino	58.62
Syed A Tirmizi	43.18
Eva Domene Molnar	36.07

#### 5 to 20 Ace of Clubs

Mr. Jeff S Hutton	26.84
Mr. Harry W Elliott	24.90
Mr. Brian R Kashiwagi	24.51

#### 1000 to 1500 Ace of Clubs

Mr. William J Churchman	279.89
Mr. Wolfie Kotzen	214.64
Mr. Terry A Sucher	157.96

#### 1500 to 2500 Ace of Clubs

Mr. Kas Rangan	290.69
Debra K Alexander	191.54
Mr. Fred Mueller	182.60

**20 to 50 Ace of Clubs**

Thomas B Willing	54.15
Deborah Zissman	39.20
Stephen O Schrader	38.54

**50 to 100 Ace of Clubs**

Bob Driskell	63.91
Sherry L Scarborough	59.01
Rodney M Armstrong	57.53

**100 to 200 Ace of Clubs**

Debra Oakes	95.86
Linda D Hensley	59.03
Gerald Fritz	41.19

**200 to 300 Ace of Clubs**

Winnie Mohsenzadeh	169.44
Lesley Kellet	93.95
Steve Broderick	89.25

**300 to 500 Ace of Clubs**

Carolyn A Hardy	94.61
Beryl T Booker	92.50
Teresa Becker	92.36

**500 to 1000 Ace of Clubs**

Ms. Lois A McCallister	177.15
Ms. Barbara D Sweeney	126.32
Robert R Burr ridge	108.48

**2500 to 3500 Ace of Clubs**

Courtney Coffman	215.96
James C Sells	214.62
Mr. Rick W Barrett	185.65

**3500 to 5000 Ace of Clubs**

Mr. James P Ochsner	242.56
Mr. Arthur J Giovannangeli	237.47
Mrs. Linda A Sutton	235.31

**5000 to 7500 Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Rick Stell	282.72
Mrs. Julie Halperin	276.03
Dr. Allen E Wolf	245.88

**7500 to 10,000 Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Paul Nimmons	207.82
Mr. Kerr M Godfrey	168.85
Gil Micheletti	139.27

**Over 10,000 Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Joe Quinn	321.74
Mr. David P Henke	303.54
Mrs. Betty Starzec	134.58



## 2025 Virtual Ace of Clubs Standings

**0 to 5 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Janice Sauve	7.59
Robert Helm	5.59
Lecia L Chaney	5.48

**5 to 20 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Steve Vandoorn	13.37
Dilip J Dharia	12.55
Mrs. Latha Iyer	10.86

**20 to 50 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Rita P Armstrong	12.60
Xueqian Lin	9.15
Deborah Zissman	7.95

**50 to 100 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Therese L Perez	50.34
Keith S Bozarth	22.73
Dmitry Braverman	19.11

**100 to 200 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Debra Oakes	283.12
Judy A Willig	47.38
Elaine McPike	37.68

**200 to 300 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Bradley C Etnyre	67.58
Richard A Eisenach	60.44
Barbara Craven	44.57

**300 to 500 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Thomas Dilger	110.91
Lindy Kahn	52.20
Kathleen C Hubbard	42.17

**500 to 1000 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Joseph E Rogers	156.46
Mrs. Elizabeth A Eisenach	137.92
Mrs. Sara M Rowe	99.97

**1000 to 1500 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Bill Nash	85.14
Debbie L Nash	84.33
Mrs. Mae V O Neil	74.00

**1500 to 2500 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Mrs. Liane Tsai	101.16
Jack Dean	41.03
Mrs. Jeanette M Dean	41.03

**2500 to 3500 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Kris A Digre	37.88
David J Goldfarb	36.32
Mr. Charles D Collins	27.64

**3500 to 5000 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Bill Gervais	83.18
Dana C Brown	81.62
Mr. Dale R Crumbaugh	44.58

**5000 to 7500 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Bill Riley	195.33
Mr. Harry S Elliott	124.15
Nelson W Brown Jr	82.11

**7500 to 10,000 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Dr. Dolores C Aquino	229.90
Timucin Erkoc	2.25

**Over 10,000 Virtual Ace of Clubs**

Mr. Jeff McKee	467.94
Ms. Sally D Wheeler	64.47

## 2025 Mini-McKenney Standings



### 0 to 5 Mini-McKenney

Frank Marino	123.11
Syed A Tirmizi	62.33
Alex Han	57.24

### 5 to 20 Mini-McKenney

Kai Liu	69.53
Mr. Harry W Elliott	36.39
Mr. Jeff S Hutton	31.81

### 20 to 50 Mini-McKenney

Mr. Thomas B Willing	69.67
Deborah Zissman	63.31
Roslyn H Pittsford	54.90

### 50 to 100 Mini-McKenney

Therese L Perez	95.87
Larry D Koenig	85.65
Randall E Rollins	79.09

### 100 to 200 Mini-McKenney

Debra Oakes	414.37
Jinrong Wang	150.88
Marilyn R Knatz	78.20

### 200 to 300 Mini-McKenney

Jessie Y Lee	241.73
Winnie Mohsenzadeh	196.75
Lesley Kellet	189.18

### 300 to 500 Mini-McKenney

Robert C Domsalla	260.03
Judi Whaling	193.99
Lindy Kahn	144.96

### 500 to 1000 Mini-McKenney

Ms. Lois A McCallister	251.32
Mr. James A Woodward	233.82
Ms. Barbara D Sweeney	204.93

### 1000 to 1500 Mini-McKenney

Mr. William J Churchman	391.86
Susan D Domsalla	290.94
Mr. Wolfie Kotzen	251.71

### 1500 to 2500 Mini-McKenney

Mr. Kas Rangan	537.58
Mr. Fred Mueller	313.07
David B Richard	270.84

### 2500 to 3500 Mini-McKenney

Paddy R Fiorino	367.64
James C Sells	303.13
Courtney Coffman	290.35

### 3500 to 5000 Mini-McKenney

Mr. Thomas Rush	510.09
Mr. Steven E Bell	367.38
Ms. Nancy C Boothe	361.44

### 5000 to 7500 Mini-McKenney

Mr. James E Breihan	590.08
Mr. Harry S Elliott	474.08
Mr. Rick Stell	377.23

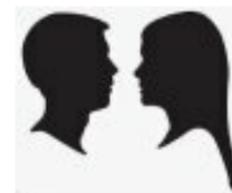
### 7500 to 10,000 Mini-McKenney

Dr. Dolores C Aquino	951.79
Mr. Kerr M Godfrey	275.15
Mr. Paul Nimmons	263.93

### Over 10,000 Mini-McKenney

Eddie Wold	1742.26
Mr. Robert F Morris	1045.99
Mr. Jeff McKee	876.02

## Member Profile



We have no member profile for March. If you know of someone who we'd all love to learn about, please email Sarah Springer at [sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com)



Houston Unit 174

## Unit News

# MEET THE CANDIDATES



## VERA ANNENKOVA

Born and educated in St. Petersburg, Russia, I earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the St. Petersburg University. Early in my life I spent a couple of happy and productive years living in the extreme environment of the Northernmost part of Siberia, inside the Polar Circle.

Together with my husband and my son I moved to the United States in 1994 and went on to have a career at the NASA Johnson Space Center. Upon retiring in 2017, I sought out a new challenge and community: the game of bridge. I began taking bridge classes at the Clear Lake Bridge Club and became an ACBL member.

Now retired, I have the time and energy to serve our unit effectively. I respectfully ask for your vote for the ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors.



## CAROL JEWETT

I have lived in Texas all of my life: I was born in Dallas; grew up in Austin; earned my undergraduate degree at Rice University in Houston; earned my law degree at the University of Texas in Austin; and thereafter lived in Houston where I practiced tax law with the Vinson & Elkins LLP law firm for many years.

I grew up playing all sorts of card games with my family but didn't play bridge until I was in high school when I started playing casual rubber bridge games with friends. I did not encounter duplicate bridge until after I retired when a friend and I started playing in a supervised game with Kay Johnson. These days, playing duplicate bridge is a regular part of my life. In addition to playing, I help with the games sponsored by the Bridge Academy of West Houston and edit the ACBL District 16 newsletter for intermediate and new players. For fun when I am not playing bridge, I play the piano and conduct visitor tours at Bayou Bend, which is the American antiques and decorative objects wing of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.



## LESLEY KELLET

I am an existing board member seeking re-election to continue to work hard for our members and guests to make it better to join in and play the game.

Born and educated in the UK, I married in 1981 and became a widow in 2011. I now live with my daughter in the Memorial area of Houston. My career in the oil and gas construction industry took me to North Africa where I lived for ten years before coming to Houston in 1989. Stateside, I have been active in clubs including the Westside Tennis Club, Houston Accueil, DBE (Daughters of the British Empire), Awty International School Parent Association, IVH, (International Voices of Houston Community Choir.) I became a US Citizen in 2001 and retired from Emerson Flow Division after 25 years with the company.

I am excited to continue to lend my energies to the benefit of Unit 174 as a member of the Board of Directors.



## WOLF SCHROETER

I was born in Germany, spent my formative years in Southeast Asia, before moving to Houston for 7th grade. I proudly received my US citizenship during High School. Upon achieving a B.A. in Biology and a J.D. in Law, I spent my career as an attorney and as an administrative landman.

During Freshman Week at Rice, three freshmen needing a fourth asked if I played bridge. "No, but I've played lots of spades and hearts." They asked me to join them and I have been hooked ever since. In 1988 I joined the ACBL. Upon retiring from law, I worked about a decade as a part time ACBL Tournament Director. My favorite part of bridge is its social aspect, enjoying time with your partners and other players in a friendly competition. Our Unit Board has worked hard to help our Clubs and our Tournaments to increase their attendance and viability.

As a Board member, I want to continue the excellent work that so many players have already contributed to our bridge community.



## JOE SIQUEIRA

In 9th grade I joined a bridge club that was led by the school principal. There were no books or internet and we just played our own version of Goren. After college I began playing duplicate in India for a few years. Then I came to the US for my graduate degree and didn't play bridge for about 20 years. My friend in Virginia Beach invited me to a duplicate game and I was instantly hooked. The system has changed dramatically and there was so much to learn. We played together, including representing our district at the NAPs, until we moved to Houston.

Now I have the distinct pleasure of playing bridge with my wife, Iris. We like to travel and we visit siblings and relatives in different parts of the world. We have one married daughter who lives in New York. This does interfere with our bridge game, but I am all in to work for the success of our unit board. Bridge is an amazing game. It requires continuous learning and concentration. Also, it teaches us humility.



## ANN STARR

I am a native Houstonian. I earned my Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Houston and was a Test Engineer at NASA for over 14 years. I'm also a pilot. I flew for the Civil Air Patrol for many years where we did inspections after hurricanes and we looked for emergency beacons that deployed. Now I fly on occasion to bridge tournaments.

Although I played social bridge since I was 17, I had a long hiatus of many years until 2019. I started Lone Star College's Senior program and took a Bridge class on how to play duplicate. I started playing at the Bridge Club until Covid hit and the Bridge Club closed. I met my husband and together we took Sam Khayatt's "Bridge Basics" class so we could learn how to play duplicate bridge and are continually working to improve our game.

If given the opportunity, I would like to serve the group by giving my time and effort to further enhance the Bridge experience for all.

Early Online Voting is March 10 - April 6 at [Unit 174 Website](#)  
Absentee Voting is March 10 - Postmark March 27 & must be received by April 6  
Mail to: Unit 174 c/o Paul Nimmons 1108 Krist Dr., Houston 77055-7522

## Class Flyers



### Can You **Learn Bridge in a Day?**

**YES!**

<b>DATE:</b>	April 12, 2026
<b>TIME:</b>	1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Bridge Club of Houston 4688 Louetta corner of Kuykendahl Spring, TX 77388

**FREE!!!**

Sponsored by ACBL Unit 174



**Pre-registration Required**  
[www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh/)

## Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
March 5-7	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Local
March 7-8	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
March 12-15	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
March 13-15	San Angelo	TX	204	Sectional	Local
March 17-22	San Miguel de Allende	GJ	173	Regional	Open
March 18-21	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
March 19-21	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
March 20-21	Dallas	TX		GNT	District Final
March 29-31	Arlington [DFW]	TX	183	Sectional	I/N
March 30 – Apr 5	D16			Royal STaC	Open
April 10-12	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
April 11-12	Houston			GNT	District Final
April 17-19	Lubbock	TX	107	Sectional	Local
April 18-19	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
April 23-26	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
April 30 – May 3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
May 11-17	Dallas [DFW]	TX	183	Regional	Open
June 5-7	Midland	TX	209	Sectional	Open
June 6-7	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
June 12-14	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
June 15-21			D16	STaC	Open
June 25-27	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Local
June 29 – July 5	Austin	TX	207	Regional	Open
July 20-26			174	STaC	Open
July 23-25	Tyler	TX	225	Regional	I/N
July 23-25	Tyler	TX	225	Sectional	Open
August 8-9	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
August 14-16	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
September 2-7	Richardson [DFW]	TX	176	Regional	Open
September 10-13	New Braunfels	TX	172	Sectional	Open
September 17-20	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
September 24-27	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
October 1-3	Denton [DFW]	TX	183	Local Sectional	Open
October 10-11	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
October 15-17	Houston	TX	174	Sectional & I/N Regional	Open & I/N

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

## BCOH 499er Sectional

**499<sup>er</sup> Sectional**  
**March 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

4688 Louetta Rd, Spring, TX | 281-651-6550 | [thebridgeclub@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thebridgeclub@sbcglobal.net)

<p><b>Event Schedule</b>  <i>Thursday thru Saturday</i>  <i>Mar 19th – 21st Single Sessions</i>  ♠ 499er Pairs           10am  ♠ 499er Pairs           2pm</p>	<p><b>Entry Fees</b>  <i>(Per Session - Cash Only)</i>  Current ACBL Members   \$12  Lapsed ACBL Members   \$16  <b>ACBL number required to play.</b>  <b>120 day guest membership available free at</b>  <a href="https://www.acbl.org/membership/">https://www.acbl.org/membership/</a></p>
<p><b>Stratification*</b>  A (300-499) B (100-300) C (0-100)  <i>* Strats may be modified by Director</i></p>	<p><b>Snacks / Lunch</b>  Free snacks and drinks. Lunch available for \$8 <b>Cash</b> each day.</p>
<p><b>Need a Partner?</b>  Contact Kas Rangan  539-210-1333  <a href="mailto:kas.rangan99@gmail.com">kas.rangan99@gmail.com</a>  <b>Ambassador available for all sessions.</b></p>	<p><b>Lodging</b>  SpringHill Suites 20303  Chasewood Park Dr., Houston, TX 77070 offers a rate of \$105 + tax per night, and free cancellation 24 hours before check-in. <b>A block of rooms is not reserved for tournament. Rooms depend on availability.</b> Contact hotel at 832-953-2223, ask for Imagine Peels and mention BCOH Bridge Tournament.</p>
<p><b>Notes</b>  ♠ BCOH is a fragrance-free facility.  ♠ <b>Life Masters with less than 500 pts can play.</b></p>	
<p><b>Tournament Chair</b>  Susan Domsalla  <a href="mailto:sdomsall@msn.com">sdomsall@msn.com</a></p>	

Silver Points – Silver Points – Silver Points

**Steve Vaughn Election Sectional**

# STEVE VAUGHN



## ELECTION SECTIONAL APRIL 10-12, 2026



### ARABIA SHRINERS

10510 Harwin Dr., Houston, TX 77036

#### Friday, Saturday, Sunday April 10-12

10 & 2:30 Stratified Open Pairs A: 4000+ B: 1500-4000 C: 0-1500 Single Sessions  
10 & 2:30 Stratified 299er Pairs B: 200-300 C: 100-200 D: 0-100 Single Sessions  
10 & 2:30 Bracketed Round Robin Swiss Teams Two Sessions

\* All Strats may be adjusted by the director to balance for strength of players.

#### District 16 Grand National Teams

Flight B Qualifying	Saturday, April 11	10 & 2:30
Championship Flight Qualifying		10 & 2:30
Flight B Finals (if necessary)	Sunday, April 12	10 & 2:30
Championship Flight Finals (if necessary)		10 & 2:30

#### Annual Meeting

Will be held between Saturday sessions.

Vote one hour prior to each session on Friday and before the morning session on Saturday.  
Full Voting Instructions at [ACBLUnit174.org](http://ACBLUnit174.org).

#### Box lunches

- \$11
- Cash only
- \$1 Coffee & Sodas
- Free water

#### Session Fee

- \$17
- Credit Cards only

#### Local Hotel

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

#### Tournament Chairs

Gary Kerr  
(281) 543-8712  
[madk86@aol.com](mailto:madk86@aol.com)

Fred Gregory  
(832) 315-7721  
[fhgregory777@gmail.com](mailto:fhgregory777@gmail.com)

#### Partnership Chair

Karen Nussbaum  
(832) 524-5233  
[Karenunit174@gmail.com](mailto:Karenunit174@gmail.com)

## BCOH Online Mentor/Mentee Games

# BRIDGE HOUSTON

*Do You want to Improve Your Bridge Game?  
Those Mentored must have less than 300 Masterpoints.  
Mentor's must have greater than 300 Masterpoints.  
Everyone in the ACBL with these qualifications can join the*

## BBO MENTOR GAME



First and Third Monday nights monthly at 7:00 p.m. Central Time

18 Boards

On BBO, go to "Competitive"

"ACBL e-Clubs" & click "Choose Houston"

You invite your mentor by checking appropriate box on BBO,  
saying you will pay for both games, a total of \$10.00.

- You get individual feedback from your mentor however & whenever the two of you decide.
- A Diamond Life Master discusses the boards you just played immediately after the game on Zoom.

Need help finding a mentor? Or would you like to mentor?

Email Mike: [minkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net)



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## 99er Nite Club



# THE 99er Nite Club East

**GREAT PLAY, LESSONS  
& LOADS OF FUN!**

**And...It's only for you, New Players!**

District 16 now has a BBO game just  
for the 0 to 99 players

**the "99er Nite Club East"!**

**When: 6pm, 7 days a week**

**Where: ACBL Clubhouse\***

**Perks:**

✓ **More Masterpoints**  
(cross club scoring)

✓ **Mini-Lessons**  
by Lynn Berg at 5:30 pm

\*Check to make sure your club is participating.  
If your club has questions they should  
contact Janice Rush at:

[janice\\_hardcastle@hotmail.com](mailto:janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com)



**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 A WEEK AT 6:00 PM CST**

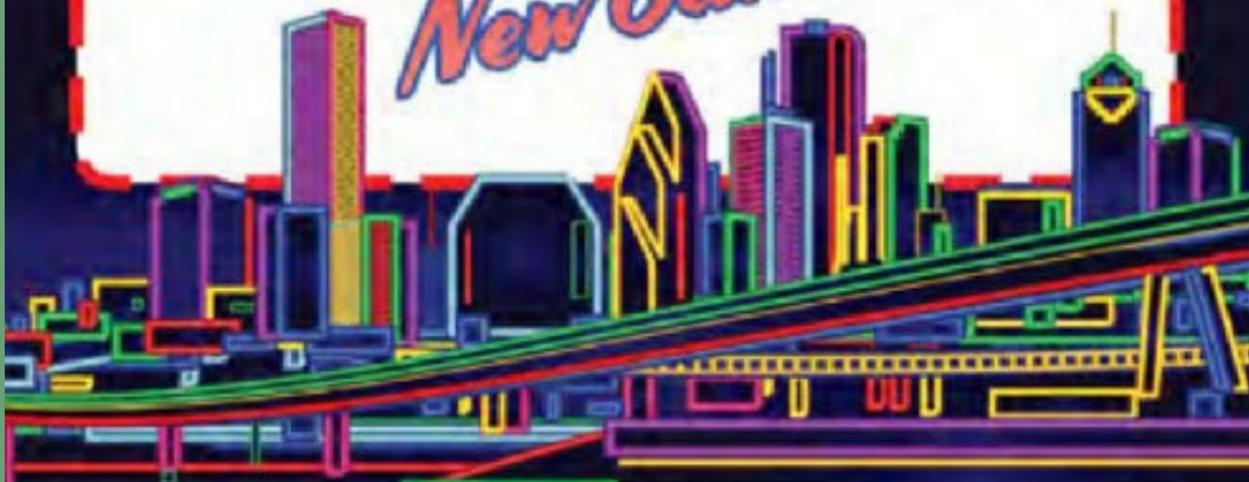
- ✓ Recent graduates of the 0 to 99 group can play in a game with players of the same ability.
- ✓ Work during the day? Graduates continue go grow skills at a time that's "worker friendly".
- ✓ Safe environment where no sharks are allowed, because the game is limited to 199 mpts.
- ✓ Clubs benefit too and continue 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*

*New Game in Town*



## **Club Table Counts**

**Yearly Totals:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Table Count</u>	<u>Number of Clubs in Unit 174</u>
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
2025	16,840.00	21

**2026 Table Counts by Club:**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Jan 1-Feb 20, 2026 Table Counts</b>
Clear Lake BC	559.5
BC of Houston	422
BA of W. Houston	397
Lone Star BC	212.5
Apple II DBC	103.5
Star DBC	99
Northside BC	97
Apple DBC	71.5
Cypress N/W DC	70
Pebble Creek DBC	43
Kingwood DBC	44
Sugarland DBC	34.5
La Grange BC	20.5
Gulf Coast	20
Houston Raquet Club	19.5
Houston Country Club	18
Forest Club	18
Galveston DBC	17
Lakeside Country Club	15.5
Les Match Bridgeurs	15.5
Buckingham duplicate BC	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2299.5</b>

Unit 174 still has two of the top three clubs in District 16: Clear Lake Bridge Club with 559.5, Bridge Center of Austin with 541.5 and Bridge Club of Houston with 422.



## Club News

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

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

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## Apple Clubs

Our games begin at 11:30 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 Apple games are \$3.00 / person. Apple II games are \$4.00 / person.

### Clubs' Policy:

APPLE clubs (Susan and Tom) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less than 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 February Game Schedule

We are excited to be back at **Tracy Gee Community Center** (CC) after the primary elections are complete beginning March 9. Apple DBC will have the following schedule Mondays in March:

March 2	@ Shriner's	March Madness Glitter Game
March 9	@ Tracy Gee CC	Unit Club Championship
March 16	@ Tracy Gee CC	Club Championship
March 23	Closed	No Game due to Community Center Special Event
March 30	@ Tracy Gee CC	District Royal STaC

### Apple II March Game Schedule

We have some great opportunities to earn points this month. We're open every Friday! See below:

March 6	Glitter Points	Earn some red points for anyone needing them. The plan is to hold only two of these Glitter games each year. One red, one gold when offered by the ACBL. This is our Red points game.
March 13	Unit Club Championship	
March 20	Grass Roots Fund	
March 27	Unit Club Championship	

*Also Note:* The scores from Fridays at Apple II can now be viewed on the [Unit 174 website](#). Click on scores and look at Fridays. Every Friday will have a space, but only those dates that a game is held will have scores. When posted, the color will be **blue**. If a scoring change required re-posting, the color will change to **purple**.

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Banks-Johnson  
[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Tom Jahnke  
[tomtomj211@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

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Bridge Academy of West Houston

***Previously...***

**499er NLM Sectional Tournament**

A 499er Sectional Tournament was held Thursday, February 26 through Saturday, February 28. The results will be reported in April's newsletter.

### **Jessie Lee - Life Master Party**

A Life Master Party was held for Jessie Lee on Sunday, February 8. Jessie is one of our newest and brightest young bridge players and in just a few short years she has already built an impressive résumé of accomplishments.

She became a national champion by being on the winning Grand National team Flight B in July of 2024. The following year, although eligible to play in the Flight B event, she decided to play up and came in tied 5/8 in the Grand National team Flight A in July of 2025. At that same event she placed 3rd in the Wagar Women's Pairs.

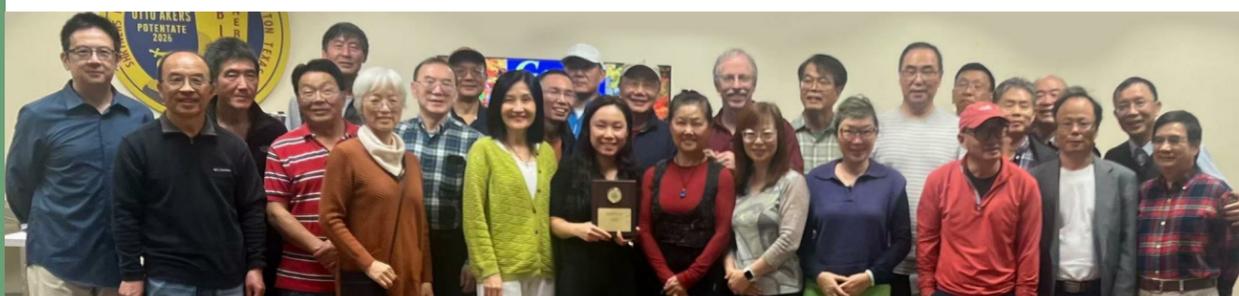
These accomplishments are even more impressive given that she is a working mother who also holds a full-time job.

Shangyou Nie had kind words to say about Jessie after Yanping Cao presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

A large group of friends and fellow players gathered for a photo to celebrate Jessie's milestone achievement. Their enthusiastic support added to the joy of the occasion and reflected the strong friendships she has built at the bridge table.



**Shangyou Nie,  
Life Master Jessie Lee  
&  
Yanping\_Cao**



## ***Upcoming Events...***

### **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

*March 3 - 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**

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

*March 29 - 8 is enough Swiss Teams*

The stratifications for the Swiss Teams game are:

**Level 1** - 0 to 1000 masterpoints

**Level 2** - 1000 to 3000 masterpoints

**Level 3** - 3000+ masterpoints

For example, a Level 3, Level 1 and two Level 2 players would add up to eight, as would four Level 2 players.

Another example would be one Level 1 and three Level 2 players. That adds up to seven; it is okay to be less than eight.

The Swiss Team has become an extremely popular event. For help in getting teammates contact:

Linda McReynolds at (713) 819-7812 or [lindamcreynolds@comcast.net](mailto:lindamcreynolds@comcast.net)

### **Mini-lesson**

Before each Wednesday and Thursday games there is a mini-lesson

beginning around 10:00 a.m. taught by Joe Quinn.

## Game Schedule

**Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee**  
**Tuesday - Open**  
**Wednesday - Open & 299'er**  
**Thursdays - Open & Beginner Pairs**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday - 8 is Enough Swiss Teams**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Arabia Shriners Center**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided
- Tom Jahnke, Janice Rush & Marty Hrachovy, directors

## Game Calendar

Tue – Mar 3	Unit Charity	Tue – Mar 17	Club Championship
Wed – Mar 4	ACBL Grassroots Fund	Wed – Mar 18	Club Championship
Thu – Mar 5	Club Championship	Thu – Mar 19	Club Championship
Tue – Mar 10	Unit Club Championship	Tue – Mar 24	Unit Club Championship
Wed – Mar 11	Unit Club Championship	Wed – Mar 25	Unit Club Championship
Thu – Mar 12	Unit Club Championship	Thu Mar 26	Unit Club Championship
		Sun Mar 29	Club Championship

## Need a Partner?

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



## Bridge Club of Houston

Please consult our monthly calendar online for updates and complete listings: [BCOH Calendar](#).

## Lessons

- Beginner Bridge classes with Susan Banks-Johnson and Andrew Remson - Saturdays, January 10- April 18, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., cost \$130 for 12 lessons. Information and Registration: [BridgewithSusanandAndy@gmail.com](mailto:BridgewithSusanandAndy@gmail.com), 281-651-6550.
- Tuesday Tidbits - Build a solid foundation with Susan Banks-Johnson, 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. Email Susan at [sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) for more information.
- Learn Bridge in a Day - Ten people braved the cold on Sunday, January 25 to attend the Unit 174 board-sponsored the program, Learn Bridge in a Day. Because of the poor weather, a second program will be held on Sunday, April 12 at BCOH. Make sure to check out the flyer in this issue for more details.

## Practice for Intermediate/Newcomers

- FLM 0-49 Game - Sundays at 1:30 p.m., \$5 fee. For more information, please contact [BridgewithCarol@gmail.com](mailto:BridgewithCarol@gmail.com), 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 4th Tuesday call or text Bob Ziegler, 713-829-6928.
- Online Mentor Game - 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m. (Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.) **Make sure to check out the flyer in this issue if you missed it.** Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: [minkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net)
- Online 0-20 Game - 2nd Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. (usually).

- F2F 399er Game (**New Upper Limit**) – Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. (noon), for a partner or to register contact Kas Rangan, [kas.rangan@gmail.com](mailto:kas.rangan@gmail.com), 539-210-1333.
- I/N Game less 1000 – 5th Tuesday of any month at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about the games, please see [BCOH website](#).

### F2F Open Pairs Games

- Mondays 10:30 a.m.
- First & Fifth Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30 a.m.
- Saturdays – 12:00 p.m. (noon)

### F2F Swiss Teams

- First Sunday 1:30 p.m.
- Third Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.

### Online - Choose Houston! (**BBO®**)

- First & Third Mondays
- Thursdays 7:00 p.m., [SE Carolina Club of Clubs](#)



- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| • March 1             | Handicap Team                              |
| • March 1, 2, 4, 7    | Glitter Game – 33% Red                     |
| • March 6,9-14, 23-28 | Unit Club Championship                     |
| • March 14            | Twenty Table Saturday                      |
| • March 16            | ACBL Wide Silver Seniors                   |
| • March 17            | St. Patrick’s Day Party, Swiss Teams “8 is |
| • March 19-21         | Enough”                                    |
| • March 20-21         | 499er Tournament                           |
| • March 30-31         | Grass Roots Fund                           |
| • March 31            | District 15 Royal STaC 25% Gold, Red,      |
|                       | Limited Pairs <1000 MP                     |

**Good Times with Good Friends!**  
*Barbara Phillips* at the  
**Barbara Phillips** Lone Star Regional



## Valentine's Day Fun



Check the [BCOH Website](#) 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](http://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.

The game fees are \$6.00 for members and \$7.00 for guests. Games are held every day of the week. The club closes for Unit 174 tournaments, Christmas and Thanksgiving. You can reach us by phone at 281-480-1911.

### **Weekly Game Schedule:**

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

0-299 Games: Monday & Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

0-499 Games: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. &  
Thursday at 1:00 p.m. *Note:* These games were previously 0-749.

0-199 Game: Saturday 1:00 p.m.  
Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

To start games on time, registration closes *10 minutes before game start time*. Late arrivals are not accepted. If you are coming to a game and find that you cannot arrive on time, please call the club to alert the director to hold your seat.

### **Teams Stratification & Registration**

The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. If you are interested in playing in a Sunday afternoon Teams Game, please register *at least one day prior* so that the director can have the set up done on time. Plan to arrive no later than *10 minutes before game start time*.

### **8 is Enough Swiss Teams**

Game is held on the second Sunday each month.

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 organized a team for any of the Sunday Swiss Teams games. You can either call Chuck at 713-502-0282 or [email](#) him. (Email is best when Chuck is traveling.)

**Mentor/Mentee Game:**

The Mentor/Mentee game is held on the third Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Reservations must be made in advance by noon on the prior Monday.

Sandwiches are served for lunch prior to the game.

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 [CLBC MM site](#) or contact Susan Hanna at [s.l.hanna@gmail.com](mailto:s.l.hanna@gmail.com)

**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 [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education) for new classes offered in 2025.

**U P C O M I N G**

**Annual Meeting**

The club's Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 12:00 noon, prior to the 1:00 p.m. game.

**New Game for 0-299ers begins March 21st!**

Enjoy a cup of coffee with friends at *9:30 a.m. during a 30-minute lesson*; new topics each week. The instructor will be Dallas Moore.

Dallas and his wife, Donna, recently joined us, after moving from Ohio. Dallas and Donna collectively have over 20,000 master points and have successfully mentored new players for many years.

The game will begin at **10:00 a.m.** There is **no additional fee** for this opportunity to visit with friends, play under the direction of a skilled instructor, and review hand records at the conclusion of the game.

Tell your friends! Come with a partner, a party of partners, or just by yourself. You **do not have to be a club member** to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

**Everyone is welcome!**

Judith Rebmann  
2nd vice president

P.S.

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



**CYPRESS NORTHWEST 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 \$3.00  
For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com).

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**KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**



### Games:

Wednesday 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.

For information, contact any of the following:  
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or [ichibanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:ichibanbill@yahoo.com)  
Sam Khayatt at [kwbridge1430@gmail.com](mailto:kwbridge1430@gmail.com)  
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570  
Or Visit our [website](#).



## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

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

### Open Games:

Mondays at 11:45 a.m.  
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

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

### *Upcoming Events...*

Monday, March 2 - March Birthdays will be celebrated. Cake will be served. Jeff Kroll will give a free lesson at 10:50 a.m.

Jeff's lessons can be viewed on our [website](#) or on [YouTube](#).

Monday, March 2 - ACBL Grass Roots Fund Game  
Thursday, March 5 - Charity Club Championship Game  
Monday, March 9 - Unit Club Championship Game  
Thursday, March 12 - Unit Club Championship Game & Free Pizza Lunch  
Monday, March 16 - Club Championship Game  
Tuesday, March 17 - Mentor-Mentee Club Championship Game  
Thursday, March 19 - Club Championship Game  
Monday, March 23 - Unit Club Championship Game  
Thursday, March 26 - Unit Club Championship Game  
Monday, March 30 - District Royal 16 STaC Game  
Tuesday, March 31 - District Royal 16 STaC Game

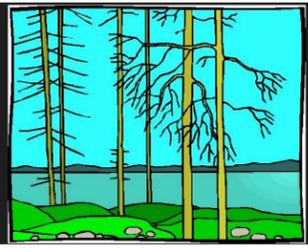
### Mentor/Mentee Information

For information about the Mentor-Mentee game, please contact Chair Anita Rothfuss at [larryandanita@gmail.com](mailto:larryandanita@gmail.com) or 936-537-5039.

### Need a partner?

Contact our partnership chairman Sandra Maalouf at 832-283-1674 or [smaalouf@icloud.com](mailto:smaalouf@icloud.com)

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#). You may also contact Mary McDonald, club manager at [maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com](mailto:maryemcdonald22@yahoo.com) or 281-964-7212 for more information.



## NORTHSIDE BRIDGE CLUB LLC

Northside holds stratified open games Fridays starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending no later than 2:30 p.m. Game fee \$5. Games are held at Restoration Church, 107 Fish Creek Thoroughfare, Montgomery.

We take a short mid-day lunch break so bring your lunch. There is a microwave, ice maker and refrigerator available. On February 13, Bob Lane is serving his special Chicken & Sausage Gumbo. February 20 we will celebrate February birthdays with cake.

### **March Game Schedule:**

March 6 - Unit Charity  
March 13 - Unit Club Championship  
March 20 - Club Championship  
March 27 - Unit Club Championship

If you need a partner, contact Carol Meade at 281-543-4541 or email her at [meadecm@icloud.com](mailto:meadecm@icloud.com) and she will do her best to assist you in getting a partner.

We are blessed with volunteers who are generous with their time and scrumptious food offerings and we are proud to continue the decades-old tradition of a friendly duplicate bridge club in the April Sound area.

For further information, contact Norm Gautier (281-795-6665) or Joyce Gautier (713-249-8767) or email at [gautier39@comcast.net](mailto:gautier39@comcast.net)



## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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



## 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 [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).



## Contributors



## Safety Plays

BY **JIMMY  
BREIHAN**

“Safety plays” are a counter-intuitive technique used as a form of insurance to make your contract even when there are bad breaks or a finesse is offside. The “safety play” may not be the optimal way to play the suit for no losers, but it gives you the best chance of making your contract, and sometimes your contract is assured if you make one of these “safety plays”.

“Safety plays” should be used in *teams games*, where the goal is to just make your contract, when overtricks are not important. They can also be used in matchpoint scoring when you know you are in a great contract that others may not be in, but you need to use your judgment if playing matchpoints.

The following are some common examples of such plays. For our purpose we are going to assume plenty of entries between the declarer’s and dummy’s hands.

### Example 1:

**A9xx**

**KJxx**

This is one of the more well-known combinations. If you need four tricks from the suit, it is best to play the A then toward the KJ putting in the J if east plays low, hoping for Qx or Qxx with east.

If you only need three tricks, there is a “safety play” that guarantees at least three tricks in the suit, no matter the distribution. It guards against Q10xx in either hand. To avoid two losers when it is Q10xx, we employ our “safety play” by playing low to the K, then low back toward your A9, covering whatever west plays. If west plays low, play the 9, if east wins the 9 with the 10 or Q, the A will drop the remaining honor the next time the suit is played. Since the suit broke 3-2 you will have three guaranteed tricks. If west plays low and when you play the 9 and east shows out, simply play your A for your third trick. If west plays the 10 or the Q, play the A and force out the remaining honor for your third trick. Finally, if west shows out, rise with the A, then play low toward your Jx, and this will guarantee your third trick in the suit as east is known to have Qx left.

### Example 2:

Let’s look at this holding between declarer and dummy:

**AQxxx**

**xxxx**

Needing all five tricks, simply take the finesse and hope for Kx with west. But if you only need four tricks to make your contract then it is best to play small to the A and later small to the Q if the K has not appeared. This “safety play” gains against a singleton K with East, although you will only make four tricks if it was indeed Kx onside.

### Example 3:

Here is another example:

**K10xxx**

**Axx**

Needing five tricks, you must hope for QJ doubleton in either east/west hand. If four tricks is your goal, play the A and then low to the 10, assuming no Q or J was played from west. This is a “safety play” against west holding QJxx. If east wins the trick two, the K will drop the last honor as the suit is divided 3-2. If west plays the Q or J on the second round, play the K and if east shows

out, come back to hand to play toward the 10 to guarantee four tricks. If east follows, you have four tricks after playing one more round of the suit. Note that even if west has Q98x or J98x and east has singleton Q or J, you still have a loser in the suit even if you play to the 10. Therefore, if east plays the Q or J on the first round of the suit, it is right to play east for QJ doubleton.

You should play low to the K, not the 10, hoping for QJ holding with east. If east shows out when you play the K, simply come back to hand and play toward the 10 guaranteeing your fourth trick in the suit. Also, if east has QJ9x or QJ8x, you always have two losers, but you gave yourself the best chance.

#### **Example 4:**

Look at this holding:

**AKJx**

**xxx**

If four tricks are needed, cash the A then finesse west for the Q and hope the suit divides 3-3. If only three tricks are needed, make the “safety play” of cashing the A and K, then playing low toward the remaining Jx. This protects against east having singleton Q or Qx.

#### **Example 5:**

And finally, one last example:

**A9xxx**

**QJxx**

Here you are missing K1087. If five tricks are necessary, play the Q finessing west for the K, hoping for K7, K8, K10, or K87 with west allowing you for five tricks. If it is K108 or K107 you will have a loser no matter how you play it.

Needing only four tricks, make the “safety play” of playing low toward the QJxx. This is a “safety play” against either player holding KT87. If east shows out, play the J forcing out west’s K and later finesse against West’s 10. If west shows out when you play J, simply play back to the A and back toward the Q, ensuring four tricks. This “safety play” guarantees four tricks but gives up on a chance for all five tricks, a small price to pay to ensure the contract.

#### **Summary**

In summary, these “safety plays” can help ensure your contract but may not be the optimal line of play for the most tricks. The aim is to guarantee a certain number of tricks in the suit or give you the best chance at a certain number of tricks. If you can remember these techniques, your results will improve upon using these “safety plays”. If you have a hard time visualizing what I just explained, grab a deck of cards and deal out the suit combinations and try them for yourselves.

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Jimmy Breihan is a professional bridge player with over 7000 masterpoints. He first learned to play bridge while living in Austin in 1998. Jimmy was one of the owners of Westside Bridge Academy in Houston until it closed down post COVID-19. He won the GNT Flight B, partnering with his wife, Jennifer, at the Las Vegas NABC in 2014. Jimmy is happy to answer any questions, just email [jimmybreihan@comcast.net](mailto:jimmybreihan@comcast.net) or ask him next time you see him playing.

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## **In Memoriam**

Jonathan R. Friedel, La Grange

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**From the Editor**



*Hello*  
**MARCH!**

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 - [lstarzec@comcast.net](mailto:lstarzec@comcast.net).*

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

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

