



## Unit 174 September 2024 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

### **President's Message**

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### **Member Profile**

### **Unit News**

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*2025 Lone Star Regional Flyer*

*D16 0-50 Game Flyer*

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*Bridge Academy of West Houston*

*Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)*

*Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule*

*Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)*

*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*

*Spring Branch Duplicate Bridge*

*Star Duplicate Bridge Club*

### **Contributors**

*Jack LaVigne - Restricted Choice*

### **From the Editor**

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



## President's Message

Sarah Springer

At last, September. Although it is still warm (hot), the days are shorter and soon we can enjoy autumn weather. We can also look forward to a good time on the Island - Galveston! Our Halloween Sectional is less than two months away. The flyers are out and it is time to make your reservations at Moody Gardens October 25-27 for a great festive weekend of bridge. We will have the very popular buffet lunches on site, as well as free plays for costume contest winners. If you came last year I'm sure you want to come back, and if you didn't attend, be sure to make plans to come this year. It is a really fun tournament in a great location.

Our Awesome August Sectional unfortunately was very poorly attended. Five of our unit clubs were open, and there were 51 tables in play at clubs during the tournament. The unit **lost** money. Part of it was the board's failure to properly promote the tournament. Part of it was summer travel. Part of it was other options in the area to play bridge. Part of it was other weekend activities. But probably having 51 tables in play at Unit 174 clubs during the tournament significantly contributed to the lack of attendance. There were numerous elements that caused the poor attendance, and your board is working hard to address the failures to ensure the future of tournament bridge in Unit 174.

Every member of our unit plays a role in whether bridge tournaments can continue to be offered. The pandemic was very hard on our beautiful game, and we are striving to keep the competition in this area alive and thriving. The popularity and convenience of online bridge is impacting club survival as well as the success of our tournaments, in a huge way. The August tournament was a big wake-up call to all of us. The board is made up of volunteers and we worked very hard on this tournament. Very few people came to help us set up, the truck delivering our supplies was late so we had to work late. And then it looked like a ghost town in the tournament over the four days. It was really sad and disappointing to say the least.

The board will be deciding soon about how to address our issues following this tournament. We will likely eliminate one or both summer tournaments. A four-day tournament is unlikely in the future. We will examine the venue options. We will encourage Unit 174 clubs to respect the unit tournaments and close during them. If you have ideas you want to share with me, please send me an email at [sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com). Our next board meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup>.

On a personal note, F2F bridge has brought the richness of friendship to me. Since I first started coming to play duplicate at the Mentor/Mentee games with my friend and mentor, Bob Crawford, I have met so many interesting people and have expanded my life in wonderful ways. To me, there is nothing better than meeting and getting to know people, and most bridge players are intelligent, interesting, and fun. Tournaments bring a wider range of people to the tables, so it's just not your club, but people from other clubs, adding to your life. Studies have shown that social interaction is a very healthy thing for all of us, and what better way to have that enhancement than face-to-face bridge?

I hope all of you have a wonderful Labor Day Holiday, with friends and family, lots of good food and celebration, and hopefully some bridge! I will be going to the Labor Day Regional in Dallas, so if you are going, I'll see you there.

In closing, I want to urge each and every one of you who can attend the Halloween tournament in Galveston to do so. We have a great room rate at Moody Gardens, the food is fabulous, there is plenty to do after the games, and we need your support. To keep tournament bridge, you need to come to the tournaments. I hope to see you there.

Sarah Springer  
[sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com)

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## 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:** Chris Davis, Junhui Du, Amy Schuh, Dori Wind

**Transfers:** Mr. John C Swanson

**Welcome!**



## Rank Advancements

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

### Junior Master

Dmitry Braverman, Mrs. Trish P Chambers, David J Connan, Sandy Lantz, Chris L Manley, Shuangxing Yu, Xiaoxing Yu

### Club Master

Shayne E Bell, Loretta N Cross, Ms. June M Cullum, Debra Oakes, Gunjan Singh

### Sectional Master

Cherie M Baer, Ms. Sandy E Belsan, Randall Clements, Betsy E Himmel, Noella Lambert, Jessie Y Lee, Kiran Oberoi, Rita Zwartkruis

### Regional Master

Penny Grassedonio, Lesley Kellet

### NABC Master

Beverly J Gebhart, Kathleen C Hubbard, Mrs. Paula L Towner, C J Tsai, Judi Whaling

### Life Master

Mrs. Ann L Bragg, Ken Russell

### Bronze Life Master

Mrs. Ann L Bragg, Ken Russell

### Silver Life Master

Jenelle W Chamberlain, Ms. Norma B Porter

### Ruby Life Master

Ms. Danuta Parzych

### Gold Life Master

Ms. Lucy G Hofmann, Mrs. Kyle J Lueders, James C Sells

**!!! Congratulations !!!**

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## **Member Profile**



We have no member profile this month. If you know someone who we should recognize, please email [Unit174News@gmail.com](mailto:Unit174News@gmail.com).

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## **Unit News**

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## **Coming Tournaments**

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
August 27-Sep 1	Dallas	TX	176	Regional	Open
September 5-8	New Braunfels	TX	172	Sectional	Open
September 19-22	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
September 19-22	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
September 24-29	Ajjic [Chapala/Guad...]	JA		Regional	Open
September 26-28	Beaumont	TX	201	Sectional	Local
September 30-October 6	D16		176	Sectional	STaC
October 8-10	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
October 12-13	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
October 16-19	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
October 25-27	Galveston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
October 25-27	Galveston	TX	174	Regional	I/N
October 31-November 2	Denton	TX	183	Sectional	Open
November 2-3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
November 4-10	Marina Vallarta [Puerto Vallarta]	JA	205	Regional	Open
November 4-10	D16		174	Sectional	STaC
November 6-9	Richardson [DFW]	TX	176	Regional	I/N
November 6-9	Richardson [DFW]	TX	176	Sectional	Open
November 14-17	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
November 30 – December 1	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
December 2-8	D16		Unit 174	Sectional	STaC
December 2-8	D16		Unit 173	Sectional	STaC

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

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## Galveston Halloween Sectional

# BEWITCHING BRIDGE HALLOWEEN SECTIONAL!

Galveston, TX

Moody Gardens Hotel & Convention Center  
7 Hope Blvd, Galveston, TX 77554



October 25-27, 2024



## Gold Points!

Gold Points Available  
for Players with 750 MPs  
& Under!



## Lodging

Room Rate: \$159

- Call (409) 683-1299
- Request ACBL rate
- North Tower closest to playing site
- South Tower closest to restaurants
- Playing site Moody Gardens Convention Center

## Hospitality



- Lunch buffet \$15
- Coffee \$1
- Concessions on site
- Free Internet
- Free Parking

It's Halloween Time!  
Come in costume for a chance  
to win a prize!  
One winner each day!



## Tournament Chairs

Dave Becker  
(214) 274-2978  
dbecker03@hotmail.com

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

# Tournament Details

## FRIDAY & SATURDAY, October 25-26

Ghostly Ghouls Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
Hayride Haunting <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> *	10:00 & 2:30
Spooky Side Game (Single Session)	10:00 & 2:30
Bewitching Bracketed Swiss (2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30

## SUNDAY, October 27

Ghostly Ghouls Open Pairs (Single Session)	9:30 & TBD
Hayride Haunting <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> *	9:30 & TBD
Bewitching Bracketed Swiss (2 sessions)	9:30 & TBD

\* Players may play One or Both sessions.

\*\* I/N Regional pays 1/3 Gold & 2/3 Red according to ACBL regulations.

## STRATIFICATION\*

Open Pairs:	A: 3500+	X: 1250-3500	Y: 0-1250
299ers:	A: 200-300	B: 100-200	D: 0-100
Gold Rush:	A: 500-750	B: 200-500	D: 0-200



\* Stratification may change at the Director's discretion.

## TABLE FEES

\$15 All Days	Cashless
\$19 Lapsed members	Credit Card Only

## DIRECTIONS to HOTEL

- Take Interstate 45 South, exit 61st St.
- Turn right on 61st St. to Seawall Blvd.
- Turn right on Seawall Blvd. to 81st St.
- Turn right on 81st to Jones Rd.
- Turn left on Hope Blvd.
- Follow the Moody Gardens signs.

*Be Scent-sitive  
This is a fragrance-free tournament.*



## BCOH 499<sup>er</sup> Sectional

# BRIDGE HOUSTON

## 499<sup>er</sup> Sectional Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

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

<p><b>Need a Partner?</b> Contact Kas Rangan 539-210-1333 <a href="mailto:kas.rangan99@gmail.com">kas.rangan99@gmail.com</a> Ambassador available for all Pairs Sessions.</p>	<p><b>Event Schedule</b> <i>Thursday thru Saturday</i> <i>Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ 499er Pairs 10am</li> <li>♠ 499er Pairs 2pm</li> </ul> <p><i>Sunday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> Swiss Teams</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ 499er Swiss Team 1:30pm</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stratification*</b> A (300 to 499) B (100-300) C (0-100) <i>* Strats may be modified by director</i></p>	<p><b>Hand Review</b> On Sunday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 12:30 to 1:15pm, an expert will answer your questions on tournament hands.</p>
<p><b>Entry Fees</b> <i>(Per Session - Cash Only)</i> Current ACBL Members \$10 Lapsed ACBL Members \$14 <i>ACBL number required to play. 120 day guest membership available free at <a href="https://www.acbl.org/membership/">https://www.acbl.org/membership/</a></i></p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♠ BCOH is a fragrance free facility.</li> <li>♠ Life Masters less than 500 pts can play.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Snacks / Lunch</b> Free snacks and drinks all days. Lunch available for \$7 <b>Cash</b> on Thurs, Fri., and Sat. if ordered by 10am. No Sunday meal.</p>	<p><b>Lodging</b> SpringHill Suites by Marriott 20303 Chasewood Park Dr., Houston, 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 BCOH Bridge Tournament.</p>
<p><b>Tournament Chair</b> Susan Domsalla 281-732-2508 <a href="mailto:sdomsall@msn.com">sdomsall@msn.com</a></p>	

Silver Points – Silver Points – Silver Points

**2025 Lone Star Regional**





# LONE STAR REGIONAL FEBRUARY 3-9, 2025



## Tournament Chairs

- ♥ Sarah Springer  
(281) 904-5791  
sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com
- ♥ Dave Becker  
(214) 274-2978  
dbeckero3@hotmail.com
- ♥ Linda McReynolds  
(713) 819-7812  
lindamcreynolds@comcast.net

## Partnership Chairs

- ♠ James Sells  
(281) 785-5295  
jamesells@live.com
- ♠ Nile Gross  
(832) 913-9318  
nilegross@gmail.com



## Tournament Hotel

**Marriott Houston Westchase**  
2900 Briar Park Drive  
Houston, TX 77042



- ♣ \$129 Room Rate
- ♣ Call (713) 978-7400
- ♣ Ask for ACBL Bridge rate
- ♣ Cut-off Date: Jan 12, 2025
- ♣ Reserve Early before it's sold out!

## Hospitality

- ♥ Complementary ACBL labels
  - Email in advance to lsrlabels@gmail.com
  - Include Name, City, State, ACBL #
  - Pickup at Hospitality Desk
- ♥ Awards at Hospitality Desk
- ♥ Welcome gift
- ♥ Daily Breakfast items
- ♥ Hot Dog lunch on Friday
- ♥ Ice Cream on Saturday
- ♥ Buffet Lunch on Sunday

## Future Life Masters

- ♦ New 0-20 game on Tues & Sat
- ♦ 1 Free play on Tues or Sat for 0-99ers



## Game Fees

- ♠ Mon-Fri \$16
- ♠ ACBL Charity Game \$17
- ♠ Saturday \$17 (\$1 for NABC)
- ♠ Sunday \$18 (lunch included w/2 session entry)
- ♠ Cashless = cc only



## Best Practices Teacher Workshop

- ♦ Sat-Sun Feb 1-2 9:00-3:00
- ♦ Registration Fee \$50
- ♦ Contact Karen Nussbaum  
(832) 524-5233  
karenunit174@gmail.com





# LONE STAR REGIONAL 2025



Houston Marriott Westchase Convention Center

## Monday, February 3

ACBL Charity Fund Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Morning Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	10
99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Afternoon Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

## Tuesday, February 4

Morning Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	10
0-20 Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Afternoon Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

## Wednesday, February 5

Morning Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	10
99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Afternoon Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

## Stratification & Flighting

Open Pairs:	A: 3500+	X: 1250-3500	Y: 0-1250
299ers:	B: 200-300	C: 100-200	D: 0-100
Gold Rush:	B: 500-750	C: 300-500	D: 0-300

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

## Hospitality Chair

▶ Peaches Eads  
(713) 569-7700  
hallieeads@aol.com

## Event Naming

▶ Marsha Bernstein  
(713) 857-6088  
marshabernstein@att.net

## Thursday, February 6

Morning Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	10
99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Afternoon Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

## Friday, February 7

Morning Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	10
99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Afternoon Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

## Saturday, February 8

Morning Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	10
99er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
0-20 Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
299er Pairs	.....	Two Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Gold Rush Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
ON-LINE Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	10 & 2:30
Afternoon Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	2:30
Evening Side Pairs	.....	Single Session	.....	7:00

\* Instructions on the Unit 174 website at [acblunit174.org](http://acblunit174.org)

## Sunday, February 9

Open Pairs	.....	Double Sessions	.....	9 & TBA
Bracketed Swiss Teams	.....	Double Sessions	.....	9 & TBA

\* Early start to finish in time for Super Bowl LIX.

## I/N Chair

▶ Tracy Meyer  
(910) 685-5615  
tracy.meyer.tx@gmail.com

NOTE: Be scent-sensitive - this is a fragrance-free tournament.  
No offensive odors.

## D16 0-50 Game



# SHOWTIME

ACBL in association with

**District 16 and  
Denton Bridge Studio**

**Presenting 0-50 MPs Game Starring YOU**

Every Monday at 4:00 PM (CST) on BBO

\$5/12 boards

Producer: Jack LaVigne

Director: Ken Javor

For help signing into BBO ([click here](#)) or contact  
Ken Javor at [KDJavor@yahoo.com](mailto:KDJavor@yahoo.com).

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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](mailto:janice_hardcastle@hotmail.com)

*New Game in Town*

## Future Life Masters

**99er**  
Future Life  
Masters

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME**

**On BBO**

**TUESDAYS  
3:05**

**“Houston U174 FLM 99er”**

**Virtual Club game based in  
Houston...meet other D16 players  
online...you will see us at area  
Regionals & Sectionals!**

**Contact:  
Mary Ellen Vail  
MEVAIL48@gmail.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>	<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

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 - August 28, 2024:

Total Tables: 11,048  
Total F2F: 9,889  
Total Online: 479  
Total Swiss Teams: 674

The number of clubs in our unit is holding at 25. The top five club table counts are:

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Clear Lake Bridge Club:         | 2,639 Tables, all F2F              |
| 2. Bridge Academy of West Houston: | 1,645 Tables, all F2F              |
| 3. Bridge Club of Houston:         | 1,632 Tables, 1180 F2F, 375 Online |
| 4. Lone Star Bridge Club:          | 1,086 Tables, all F2F              |
| 5. Apple II DBC                    | 547 Tables, all F2F                |

One other bit of information, Unit 174's Clear Lake Bridge Club is still the District 16 leader for F2F tables followed by Bridge Center of Austin with 2,056 tables and Arlington DBC with 1,687.

Good News!

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## D16 Teacher of the Year Nominations



**District 16  
Teacher of the Year**

Is there a bridge teacher who has inspired you? Now is the time to reward that individual's enthusiasm, passion and patience! Celebrate your teacher! Nominate your teacher for the D16 Teacher of the Year award.

The nomination process works like this:

1. You ask your teacher if he/she would like to be nominated.
2. Your teacher agrees.
3. You send an email to [district16TOY@gmail.com](mailto:district16TOY@gmail.com) with your teacher's contact information.
4. We take it from there.

Please submit nominations by November 30, 2024, so that your teacher has time to put together a portfolio by December 31, 2024.

The winner will be announced at the 2025 Lone Star Regional.



## Club News

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

Additional information about all of the clubs can be found on the

[Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to their website.

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## Apple Clubs

Our games begin at 11:30 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 Brigitte) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less than 50 points.

APPLE II will have an International Fund Game every Friday at 11:30 a.m. for our usual price of \$3 per person.

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!

For information, please contact:

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

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer  
[sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information [here](#).

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



## Bridge Academy of West Houston

### James Sells - Gold Life Master & Kay Johnson - Birthday Party

On Wednesday, July 24th, Sandy Clark and Audley Karrasch hosted a combination Gold Life Master party for James Sells and a birthday party for Kay Johnson. Everyone had a great time.



## D16 Flight B GNT NABC Winners & World Youth Championship Teams

On Sunday, August 18th, a party was held to celebrate the D16 GNT Flight B team that won the NABC, and Team Jack that won the U16 (Under 16) World Youth Championship.



Hao Deng, Mark Pan, Weijun Zhu, Jessie Lee, Kyo Chen & Hau Chen

Hao Deng, Mark Pan and Jessie Lee were members of the NABC Champion GNT Flight B team, while Kyo Chen was a member of the World Youth Championship Jack team. Weijun Zhu is Jessie Lee's husband and Hau Chen is Kyo Chen's father.

This festive occasion was marked by delicious food, delightful company, and lots of fun.

### **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

*September 2nd - Mentor/Mentee*

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

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

### **Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Teams**

Last month a special FLM event was held where the players were limited to 99 points. It was held in the Oasis room and drew a record table count of 9 tables. Congratulations to Ray Yoder and Marc Sullivan, who won the event with an impressive score of 70.3%.

Our Future Life Masters (FLM) and 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held monthly on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The next game will be held on

*September 29th - FLM & 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:

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

### **Mini-lesson**

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

### **Game Schedule**



**Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee**  
**Wednesday - Open & 299'er**  
**Thursdays - Invitational**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Arabia Shriners Center**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

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

#### Game Calendar

Tue – Sep 3	International Fund	Wed – Sep 18	International Fund
Wed – Sep 4	International Fund	Thu – Sep 19	International Fund
Thu – Sep 5	International Fund	Wed – Sep 25	International Fund
Wed – Sep 11	International Fund I	Thu – Sep 26	International Fund
Thu – Sep 12	International Fund	Sun – Sep 29	International Fund

#### 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: [BCOH Calendar](#).

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

**BBO - Mentor/Mentee Games:** First and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
(**Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.**) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: [minkins@swbell.net](mailto:minkins@swbell.net).

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

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

#### SAVE THE DATES:

Stratified Swiss Teams - September 17th at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

**Mentor/Mentee F2F:** September 10th and 24th at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at [judy\\_n\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_n_al@yahoo.com) by phone 713-320-5592 or Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928. Also contact them with any questions.

#### TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson from 9:30 to 10:10 a.m. Game to follow begins at 10:30 a.m. We will set up partnerships for those who need it. Text Julie at 713-857-8004 with questions or concerns. **Lessons are open to all.**

September 13th - Pizza Friday: Come and enjoy a free pizza lunch and a fun game of bridge.

**September 2nd - Labor Day Celebration-** Hotdogs served at 11:00 am. Please bring a side to share. Open game begins at 11:55 a.m. 50% **RED** and 50% **Black** points awarded.

September 19th- 22nd - 499er Tournament - Check the flyer in this issue as well as the [website](#) for details.

October 19th - "20 Table Saturday": Lunch provided 11:00 a.m. Open and 299er games to begin at noon. Extra points and a Silent Auction. Don't miss

out on the fun check the BCOH [website](#) for further details.

## 2 over 1 Practice!



*Beginning September 11*

*For 4 weeks*

*\$60*

**Review 2/1 concepts**

**Practice playing hands**

**Or \$20 a lesson**

*Julie Halperin  
Diamond LM  
Best Practices Teacher  
ACBL*

**text:**  
**713-857-8004**  
**email:**  
**brdgplyr2011@hotmail.com**

**Wednesday afternoons  
from 2:30-4:30**

**Bridge Club of Houston  
4688 Louetta Road  
Spring, Texas**

## CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE - BBO ONLINE GAMES

Online Games for all levels every day! These dates will change if the ACBL has approved special games online so please check the Bridge Club of Houston and Clear Lake Bridge Club for updates.

# Playing online? CHOOSE HOUSTON!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
9:00 AM	<i>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>						<b>FLM 0-99</b>	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM								
10:10 AM								
11:50 AM								
12:00 PM								
3:00 PM								
3:05 PM	<b>FLM 0-99</b>							
	<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit <a href="http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh">www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh</a> for details</i>							
7:00 PM	<b>Mentor</b>					<b>Open</b>		

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



## 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.

**PREVIOUSLY...**

## Volunteer Spotlight



Claudia Parr

Next time you see Claudia say "THANK YOU" for helping make our club a place of friendship and fun! If it seems like we are a 'well-oiled machine', you are right because of all the daily behind-the-scenes work.

Claudia is one of our many behind-the-scenes volunteers. She maintains our monthly calendar, which is a bigger job than you might imagine. Along with the printed calendar made available at the club and posted on our website, Claudia manages and tracks the club organizational tasks that are listed each month:

- Identifying the Special Games - a complex task
- Posting the Game Directors and Tracking Changes
- Showing the Local, Regional and Sectional Tournaments

Claudia also works with Steve Lowenkron at the beginning of each year to print the Club Directory that is provided free to all of our members.

Here is a Big One...Claudia served on our board and is a former president! She is among the group who participated in the acquisition/permitting of our building. In addition to the critical organizational tasks she has performed EVERY MONTH for years, she finds time to occasionally make treats for parties! Aren't we lucky to have her!

**MANY THANKS CLAUDIA!**

**PREVIOUSLY...**

North American Pairs qualifying games continued in August. CLBC also had

Club Championship and Junior Fund games.

### *Masterpoint Milestone*

Clear Lake Bridge Club closed to support the Unit 174 Awesome August Sectional August 8-11. Congratulations to **Barbara Sweeney** earning Life Master!

### *August Mentor/Mentee Winners*



### **UPCOMING...**

ACBL is offering half **RED** and half **BLACK** masterpoints on Sunday Swiss Teams, September 1, 2024. We are participating.

Clear Lake Bridge Club plans to be open on Labor Day.

ACBL has designated September as International Fund month. These games help support North American participation in international events.

September 18: Mentor/Mentee at 2:00 p.m. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

Remember, District 16 Royal STaC starts on Monday, September 30th and runs through the rest of the week. Pick up some pigmented points!

#### **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.

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

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

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

#### **Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):**

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

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 2024.

Sherry Scoggins  
President  
[sgreisen1949@gmail.com](mailto:sgreisen1949@gmail.com)

P.S.

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



## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY DBC

**Cypress NW DBC** meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, TX, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30 a.m., with sign-up beginning at 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

- A game will be held on Tuesday, September 3 (Day after Labor Day).
- We use Bridge Mate II Bridge pads.
- We do not use slippery plastic cards.
- Most games are upgraded for more Masterpoints.
- 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.
- Crudités snacks are included for our vegetarian players.
- All games are fully sanctioned by the ACBL.
- Results available immediately.
- Directors are fully qualified and experienced.
- All games including upgraded are \$7.00.

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

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



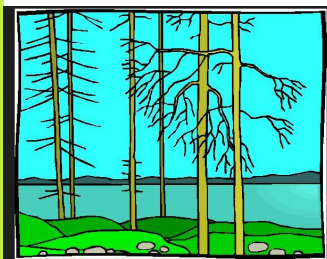
## KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

### 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.

For information, contact any of the following:  
Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or [jrsimmons2102@gmail.com](mailto:jrsimmons2102@gmail.com).  
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or [ichibanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:ichibanbill@yahoo.com).  
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570  
Or Visit our [website](#).



## LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

### September 2024

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so all 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 begin playing at 10:30 a.m. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. Please bring your lunch as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

Our games are played in the Fellowship Room at April Sound Church, located at [67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S](#), Montgomery. There is easy access from Hwy 105 into the church parking lot.

While Gerry Earnest is recovering from surgery, Carol Meade is taking over the partnership desk. If you need a partner, please contact Carol by phone at 281-543-4541 or via email at [meadecm@icloud.com](mailto:meadecm@icloud.com).

The following is what's happening in September:

- September 6 - International Fund
- September 13 - International Fund
- September 20 - International Fund
- September 27 - International Fund - Pizza lunch provided

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

Penny Grassedonio  
Club Manager  
832-361-4577  
[czthdaypjg@gmail.com](mailto:czthdaypjg@gmail.com)  
[website](#)

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## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

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

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

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

### September Calendar of Events

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day Celebration & International Fund Game. We will be serving hot dogs with all the fixings AND our monthly birthday cake for our members with September birthdays. Lunch served at 11:00 a.m. Game starts 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, September 5 - International Fund Game.

Monday, September 9 - International Fund Game & Free bridge lesson with Diamond Life Master Jeff Kroll.

Thursday, September 12 - Free Pizza Lunch & International Fund Game.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday September 16, 17 and 19 - International Fund Game & Mentor/Mentee Game Club Championship on August 17.

Monday, September 23 - International Fund Game.

Tuesday, September 24 - Swiss Teams.

Thursday, September 26 - International Fund Game.

Monday, September 30 - D16 Fall Royal STaC.  
Win Multi-colored points!

Tuesday and Thursday, October 1 and 3 - D16 Fall Royal STaC. Games start at 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the email list for our weekly newsletter to keep up with our club news as well as a weekly lesson from DLM Jeff Kroll, please contact Linda Sutton at: [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com) or 936-443-3600.

For more information, contact Linda Sutton, Club Manager at [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com).

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#).



## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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



## SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Games are on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Manager & Director  
John Herzer  
737-287-7888  
[johncherzer@gmail.com](mailto:johncherzer@gmail.com)  
[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



## Restricted Choice

BY JACK LAVIGNE

In the following layout, spades is the trump suit:

Dummy  
♠K10xxx

Declarer  
♠Axxx

Declarer plays the ♠A and sees the ♠J drop from right-hand opponent (RHO). You may have heard the phrase "*Eight ever Nine never*". With that in mind, the declarer leads a second trump to the ♠K, hoping to drop the ♠Q from a holding of ♠QJ doubleton.

The reader might be surprised to learn that the odds are approximately two to one in favor of finessing, i.e., playing for the ♠Qxx in the left-hand opponent's (LHO) hand.

Why is that? The answer lies in what is known as the *Rule of Restricted Choice*.

The principle behind restricted choice is this: Playing a particular card from a choice of equals decreases the probability that the player holds an equal



card.

For this example, if RHO has the doubleton QJ, either card can be chosen randomly since both are equals. About half the time the queen is played and the other half, the jack. With the singleton jack, however, there is no choice. RHO is forced or *restricted* to play the J.

Since the probability of the QJ doubleton or singleton J in RHO's hand are close, when the declarer sees the J, the odds are roughly two to one that it is a singleton.

Here are three examples. Assume that the contract is notrump and the declarer has entries to either hand:

a) <u>Dummy</u> AK1032	b) <u>Dummy</u> A1094	c) <u>Dummy</u> A4
<u>Declarer</u> 7654	<u>Declarer</u> K532	<u>Declarer</u> Q98762

In example a), the declarer plays the A. If the Q or J shows up in the RHO's hand, finesse the 10 on the second round.

In example b), the declarer leads the K. If the Q or J shows up in the RHO's hand, finesse the 9 on the second round.

Finally, in example c) the declarer leads the 2 towards the dummy and plays the A. In this case, his LHO played the 10 and his RHO the 3. When the 4 is led from the dummy, RHO plays the 5.

Recognizing this layout as a restricted choice case is a little more challenging; you have two choices: play LHO for the K10 doubleton or the J10 doubleton. In the latter case, LHO would be *free* to play the J or 10. In the former case, LHO is *restricted* to playing the 10. Therefore, the correct answer here is to play the 9, hoping that RHO has the J53.

### **A Story**

In the early 80's I was playing with a friend, Bob Meyers, in Midland. I was declaring and held the spade suit shown at the beginning:

Dummy  
♠K10xxx

Declarer  
♠Axxx

I played the ♠A and saw the ♠J drop on my right. I led low to the dummy and finessed the ♠10. I lost to the doubleton ♠QJ.

Bob looked at me with a surprised look on his face. I said "*The Rule of Restricted Choice makes the odds 2 to 1 that the ♠J was singleton.*" It didn't look like he was convinced.

Amazingly, later in the evening, Bob held almost the identical trump suit:

Dummy  
♠A10xxx

Declarer  
♠Kxxx

Bob played the ♠K and the ♠Q appeared on his right. Bob led low towards the dummy, paused and pondered for a moment. Then he looked me straight in the eye and with a loud confident voice pointed his finger at me and said, "*play the ♠A.*" The ♠QJ doubleton dropped.

This is one friend who I will never convince to use the *Rule of Restricted Choice*.

### **Summary**

When considering whether an opponent is playing from a doubleton of equals (e.g., QJ, J10, etc.), the *Rule of Restricted Choice* applies. With the doubleton, the opponent is *free* to play either card randomly. With the singleton, the player is *restricted* to playing the singleton.



## In Memoriam.

\* Dr. Robert L. Matcha, Sugar Land

\*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 Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Board President - [sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com).*

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

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

