



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 1 – January, 2011

8 pages



January Events



Monday Morning Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:45AM:

January 3 – open pairs January 10 – open pairs January 17 – open pairs

January 24 – open pairs January 31 – open pairs

Contact Betty Capodice at 309-827-3318 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, January 1, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Monday, January 3, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, January 4, 6:15PM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, January 5, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 6, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 8, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, January 10, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 11, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 12, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 13, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 15, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, January 17, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 18, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 19, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 20, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 22, NO GAME – TOURNAMENT AT UAW Local 2488

Monday, January 24, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 25, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 26, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 27, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 29, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, January 31, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner.

All game results are posted online: clubresults.acbl.org

Post game online discussions of deals are available at: mikesbridge.blogspot.com

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

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#1

Hand evaluation is of course very important. However, after you make an optimistic bid, you need to be able to bring home the contract. Here is a declarer who did just that.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir E
Vul E/W

♠ J862
♥ J92
♦ K94
♣ A108

♣74	♠AK10
♥AK10764	♥Q853
♦872	♦63
♣32	♣QJ64

♠ Q953
♥
♦ AQJ105
♣ K975

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
2♥	DBL	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

BIDDING: After North's negative double, South decided the heart void along with his twelve high card points made his hand worth a jump. North continued on to game.

PLAY: West led a top heart ruffed by South. The bidding placed the top spade honors in the East hand so at trick two, declarer led a diamond to dummy. He continued with a spade won by East's king. East led another heart forcing South to ruff again. Next, declarer led another diamond to dummy followed by a third heart ruff. Declarer returned to dummy with a club and led a low spade. East won the ten but could only collect one more spade trick. Declarer had his ten tricks losing only three trump tricks.

Note that the trumps must divide 3-2 for the contract to succeed and declarer played accordingly.

#2

The most common methods used to reach slams are Blackwood and cue bidding of controls. The role of the Blackwood convention is to keep you out of slam when you are missing more than one ace. Cue bidding is used to discover if you are missing a first or second round control in a suit. The key is to know which approach to use.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir W Vul E/W	♠ KQ1072 ♥ KQ3 ♦ Q8 ♣ A82	♠ 965 ♥ 64 ♦ AKJ10 ♣ J1043	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 84 ♥ 108 ♦ 6532 ♣ Q9765	♠ AJ3 ♥ AJ9752 ♦ 974 ♣ K	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3 ♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South																							
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥																							
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠																							
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥																							
Pass	Pass	Pass																								

BIDDING: This N/S pair use the 2/1 bidding system so South's 2♥ bid was forcing to game. North raised, South showed spade support, and they were on their way to slam. This pair uses Italian style cue bidding where first round controls (ace or void) or second round controls (king or singleton) are shown. When South skipped over diamonds, he denied a control so North brought the auction to a quick halt.

PLAY: West led the ace and king of diamonds and declarer soon claimed the rest. There were several pairs who bid 4NT, found they were missing only one ace, and bid the slam. Blackwood should not be used when you hold a small doubleton (or worse) in a suit.

#3

An auction may be simple or quite complex. This one nearly ran the E/W pair out of Pass cards.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dlr E Vul E/W ♠95 ♥974 ♦1095 ♣J9654	♠ Q8643 ♥ KQ102 ♦ 6 ♣ KQ2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> ♠2 ♥J865 ♦QJ432 ♣873 ♠ AKJ107 ♥ A3 ♦ AK87 ♣ A10	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>7♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥	Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass			
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Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥																															
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass																															
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BIDDING: Here is a summary of the N/S bidding: The 2♦ response was game forcing denying a good suit. After South showed spades, North jumped in diamonds to show spade support and diamond shortness. South's 4NT bid was Roman Keycard Blackwood (4 aces +king of spades) and North denied holding any of these cards. South who held all five keycards then bid 5♥ to ask North if he held the queen of spades. North replied he did and he also held the king of clubs. Next South asked North if he was also fortunate enough to possess the king of hearts and North jumped to seven to answer yes.

PLAY: West led a trump and South soon claimed all of the tricks. It's true there were also thirteen tricks in notrump but South felt he might have to ruff diamonds in dummy.

#4

Here is another complex auction that carried North-South to a great grand slam.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir W
Vul E/W

♠ A1043
♥ K76
♦ AK9
♣ Q95

♠ Q65
♥ J95
♦ J42
♣ 10874

♠ K9872
♥ 8432
♦ 3
♣ J63

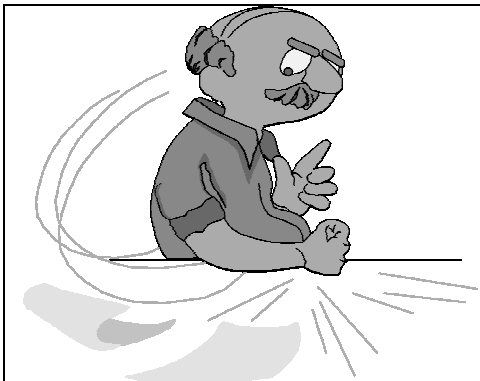
♠ J
♥ AQ10
♦ Q108765
♣ AK2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

*transfer to diamonds

BIDDING: Here is a recap of the N/S auction: South showed a long diamond suit and North's 3♣ bid was a "super accept". South's jump to 4♦ initiated Roman Keycard Blackwood (4 aces + trump King). North admitted to hold three keycards so South was now interested in bidding the grand. His 5♥ bid asked North if he held the king of hearts and North said yes by bidding seven diamonds.

PLAY: West led a trump and South soon claimed all of the tricks. It's true there were also thirteen tricks in notrump but most pairs stopped in 3NT and only a few bid the small slam. Minor suit slams are difficult to bid partly because of the reluctance to go past 3NT.



Remember: All Bloomington-Normal duplicate events adhere to the ACBL's zero tolerance for unacceptable behavior. Do NOT let this person's conduct rub off on you!!



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell

#1 - IT'S ELEMENTARY

Crime in London appeared to be taking a vacation, and Sherlock Holmes found himself on opening lead at the Baker Street Bridge Club:

♠ A65, ♥ 92, ♦ T95, ♣ Q9654

	<i>Holmes</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>East</i>
	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
	All Pass			

Let's eavesdrop on the post-mortem in Holmes' 221B bachelor quarters.

Watson: Dash it, Holmes, why not lead the unbid suit? I must have Hearts.

Holmes: Indeed, dear chap, you had four, but so did declarer.

Watson: We know that now.

Holmes: And I knew it before I made my lead.

Watson: An Englishman doesn't peek.

Holmes: No, it was the curious matter of your bidding.

Watson: But I didn't bid.

Holmes: Yes, that was most curious. My 6-count and the opponents' bidding told me that you had a decent hand. And yet you did not overcall 1♥. Clearly you had less than 5 Hearts. The auction also told me that West had less than four Hearts and East less than 5. Thus, the Hearts were 2-3-4-4 around the table.

Watson: Very clever. I suppose you also knew that West had three Clubs.

Holmes: Yes, Watson.

Watson: You *did* know?

Holmes: It seemed most likely. I had five and East had at least two.

Watson: He did?

Holmes: If he was 3=4=5=1 he would raise Spades. With 2=4=6=1 he would rebid Diamonds. Ergo, he had at least two Clubs.

Watson: So, if East had two Clubs and West had four then I would have had just two. With that I would no doubt make a Takeout Double of 1♣.

Holmes: By George, I think he's got it!

Yes, of course, Holmes did not lead the unbid Hearts, he led through West's Club suit. But how on earth did he know to lead the *Queen*, the only card in his hand which beats the contract? That's a story for another day.

	♠ KQJ ♥ 8754 ♦ J63 ♣ AJ3	
♠ T972 ♥ AKJ ♦ Q84 ♣ K87	<i>Watson</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Holmes</i>	♠ 843 ♥ QT63 ♦ AK72 ♣ T2
	♠ A65 ♥ 92 ♦ T95 ♣ Q9654	

#2 – TOO EASY -- Declarer got to a great slam but he forgot to make his contract. It was just too easy:

	♠ T854 ♥ ♦ KQJT52 ♣ AKQ	
♠ J96 ♥ A9543 ♦ 63 ♣ T43	North West East South	♠ 3 ♥ KQJT76 ♦ A98 ♣ 962
	♠ AKQ72 ♥ 82 ♦ 74 ♣ J875	

None Vulnerable
South West North East
 2♥
 2♠ 4♥ 6♠! Pass
 Pass Pass

West leads the ♥A and, when Dummy goes down, who would blame Declarer for thinking “Yippee! What a terrific slam, and on just a combined 25 HCP! Nicely bid, pard!”

Declarer ruffs that ♥A opening lead and, without pausing for thought, cashes the ♠A and ♠K. When East shows out on the second round of trumps, Declarer ponders awhile (it’s a bit late now!) before realizing that “Oops!” and not “Yippee!” is the appropriate exclamation. Yes, indeed, Declarer has goofed mightily. He cannot draw the last trump (that would let the defense score a Heart and a Diamond), so he ruffs a Heart on the board and exits with the ♦K. But that doesn’t work, either. East wins the ♦A and returns a Diamond which must be won in Dummy. Now Declarer has no way back to his hand to draw that last enemy trump. He’ll cash a Diamond and lead another one, but, when East follows to the third round, Declarer will know that his goose is cooked. Whether he ruffs high or low, West’s ♠J will score a trick. Down one!

Of course, the winning line is to ruff the opening Heart lead, cross to the ♠A, ruff another Heart, and then draw trumps. Now is the time for that yippee. Trick 1 was the time for thinking.

#3 - THE POWER OF TENS

	♠ A97 ♥ K976 ♦ A874 ♣ A6	
♠ J43 ♥ J3 ♦ KQ62 ♣ J873	North West East South	♠ Q852 ♥ 8542 ♦ J3 ♣ KQ2
	♠ KT6 ♥ AQT ♦ T95 ♣ T954	

None Vulnerable
North East South West
 1NT Pass ??

Put yourself in the South chair. Your partner opens a 15-17 1NT and you have to decide whether to invite game, or whether to bid 3NT all by yourself.

The usual benchmark for going to game unaided is “a good 9 or better”. One thing that makes South’s 9-count not so good is the square shape (3-3-3-4), you can almost subtract a HCP for that alone. Does this make South’s hand a “bad 9”? No, not at all, look at that awesome array of intermediate cards! All those lovely Tens may not count for

anything on the 4-3-2-1 HCP scale but they certainly count for something in the play of the hand, especially in NoTrump contracts. So, South disregards the dismal distribution and, rejoicing in those splendid Tens, goes directly to 3NT.

Declarer has a minimum 1NT opening (and would have declined a game invitation) but, even so, 3NT is a fine contract. The black Tens protect Declarer against the enemy suits and the red Tens help Declarer to build tricks in his own suits. It will be 10 tricks on most lines of play, but check out what happens if all of South’s Tens are swapped with East’s lowest spot card in each suit. Now it’s hard to see how Declarer can scrape up more than 7 tricks! Here’s to those Tens, the most underrated cards in the deck!

#4 - WAKE-UP CALL

On defense, when leading a suit, we follow certain conventions such as “top of a sequence” or “fourth best”, all the better to help partner figure out our holding in the suit. But, once in a while, we lie. Consider this deal:

North	♠ J87
West Dummy	♥ 65
	♦ K973
South	♣ KQ62
♠ 643	
♥ A43	
♦ T8642	
♣ A7	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

Pass 1♠ 3♥ 3♠

4♥ 4♠ All Pass

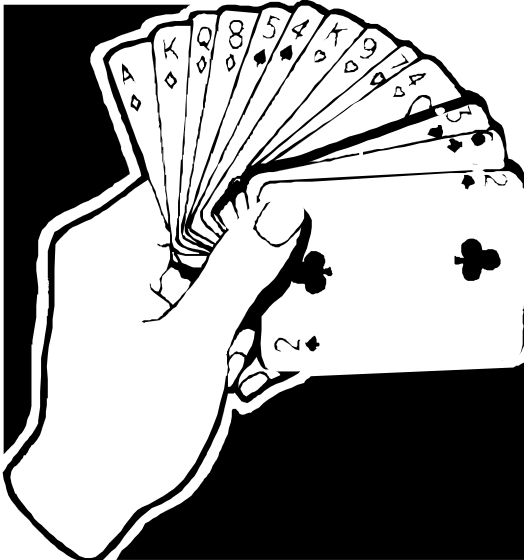
Against 4♠ our partner leads the ♥2 and we win the trick with the Ace. Have you figured out partner’s holding in the Heart suit? Of course not, it’s impossible, the lead makes no sense whatsoever! Partner’s Two is clearly non-standard, it cannot be 4th best when he is known from the

bidding to have at least a 6-card suit. What’s he up to? He’s issuing a wake-up call, requesting us to think outside the box. He doesn’t want us routinely to continue Hearts, he has something else in mind. What could that be? No doubt he can ruff a minor suit! But which one? Surely not Clubs, that would give Declarer seven of them. Partner must be void in Diamonds!

	♠ 52	
	♥KQJT972	
	♦	
	♣ 9854	
♠ AKQT9	North	♠ J87
♥ 8	West	♥ 65
♦ AQJ5	East	♦ K973
♣ JT3	South	♣ KQ62
	♠ 643	
	♥ A43	
	♦ T8642	
	♣ A7	

North’s “alarm clock lead”, as it is known, alerts us to the winning defense. A Diamond is ruffed at Trick 2, then a Club returned to our Ace, after which a second ruff. Down one! Those alarm clock leads won’t come up very often but they are great fun when they do!

Upcoming tournaments:



Bloomington-Normal Winter Sectional
January 21-23, UAW local 2488,
Bloomington, IL