



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 2 – February, 2011

12 pages



February Events



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

February 7 – STaC open pairs February 14 – open pairs

February 21 – open pairs February 28 – ACBL-wide seniors only open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

- Tuesday, February 1, 6:15PM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Wednesday, February 2, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, February 3, 11:45AM – open pairs– Knights of Columbus
- Friday, February 4, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs– Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, February 5, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Knights of Columbus – SPECIAL LOCATION
- Sunday, February 6, 1:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland
- Monday, February 7, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only pairs – Heartland
- Tuesday, February 8, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland
- Wednesday, February 9, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Wednesday, February 9, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland
- Thursday, February 10, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, February 10, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland
- Saturday, February 12, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, February 14, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland
- Tuesday, February 15, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland
- Wednesday, February 16, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, February 17, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, February 19, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, February 21, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland
- Tuesday, February 22, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland
- Wednesday, February 23, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, February 24, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, February 26, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, February 28, 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.

The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders
As of 2/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,290.57 Betty Capodice**
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 2 **2,533.20 Steve Babin**
- 3 **1,779.46 Mike Tomlianovich**
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 4 **1,539.19 Steve Hawthorne**
- 5 **1,518.14 Zack Freehill**
- 6 **1,413.53 Hank Hoffman**
- 7 **1,262.15 Dewey Gronau**
- 8 **1,226.06 Eunice Patton**
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 9 **1,062.44 Stan Gutzman**

- 10 **1,058.38 Jeanne Strand**
- 11 **1,028.88 Ivey Weaver**
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 12 **880.11 Jean Barnett**
- 13 **784.82 Don Strand**
- 14 **770.78 Glen Beaman**
- 15 **744.00 Henrietta Crain**
- 16 **742.38 Charlie Morton**
- 17 **702.08 Randall Motchan**
- 18 **652.43 Ann Schuyler**
- 19 **610.10 Martin Compton**
- 20 **570.06 Ann Farnsworth**
- 21 **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 22 **547.63 Peg Deutsch**
- *** 474.92 Nona Wooley
- 23 **481.88 Bev Upp**
- 24 **464.33 Dennis Moll**
- 25 **458.42 Bob Smith**

*** deceased

Other players:

- ***12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 10,553.92 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,020.42 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 3,869.05 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,465.04 Larry Matheny
- 2,871.16 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 2,717.95 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 2,399.71 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,332.85 Gail Moon
- 2,238.29 Liz Zalar-Springfield
- 2,267.09 Kish Devaraj
- 2,131.08 Chuck Zalar-Springfield
- 2,083.74 Leah Newell- Springfield
- 1,993.82 Ray Russ-Henry
- 1,941.65 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria
- 1,904.35 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 1,820.39 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 1,800.89 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,708.32 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 1,463.75 Tim Cull-Springfield
- 1,440.29 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,350.61 Marilyn Stickel-Laon
- 1,166.30 Jim Moon
- 967.52 Donna Kaufman-Peoria
- 891.78 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 750.25 Bev Fast-Peoria
- 683.75 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria
- 700.21 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 629.38 Camilla Rabjohns
- 620.22 Eunice Viktor-Morton
- 585.61 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 585.03 Bill Carley-Peoria
- 504.06 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria

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#1

There is no doubt the matchpoint scoring system employed in pairs events should influence your play of the hand. This hand demonstrates that simple lesson.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir W ♠ 4
 Vul E/W ♥ 987
 ♦ K853
 ♣ K10832

♠ Q9872 ♠ K10653
 ♥ 42 ♥ QJ106
 ♦ Q742 ♦ 6
 ♣ A5 ♣ 976

♠ AJ
 ♥ AK53
 ♦ AJ109
 ♣ QJ4

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

BIDDING: North-South had a routine auction to game.

PLAY: West led his fourth best spade and declarer quickly saw he had no way to bring home nine tricks. So he won the first spade and led clubs. West won and the defense soon had five tricks to defeat the contract. Why is this hand of interest? Because several of the South players tried taking a diamond finesse or playing for the remaining hearts to divide 3-3. Those declarers went down two and sometimes three tricks. The scoring at matchpoints rewards the best plus scores and also the smallest minus scores. When your contract has no hope, minimize your loss.

#2

To be an effective defender you must have good carding agreements and also pay close attention to the cards that are played. Here is a hand with a good lesson.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir W Vul E/W	♠ K103 ♥ 653 ♦ Q76 ♣ KQ43	♠ 74 ♥ KQJ87 ♦ KJ842 ♣ J	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ AJ ♥ A2 ♦ 10953 ♣ 107652	♠ Q98652 ♥ 1094 ♦ A ♣ A98	<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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>DBL</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</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	Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT	DBL	2♣	2♠	3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass			
West	North	East	South																							
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣																							
1NT	DBL	2♣	2♠																							
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass																							
Pass																										

BIDDING: South opened in fourth chair followed by West's 1NT showing an unknown two-suiter. North doubled to show values, East ran to his longest suit, and South rebid his spade suit. The auction told West that his partner held a few good cards so he competed at the three-level showing diamonds and hearts. North closed out the auction.

PLAY: West led his singleton club. Declarer counted three heart losers along with the ace of trumps. He saw no way to avoid a club ruff so he won in his hand and led a spade to the king and ace. East returned a club for his partner to ruff. He led the ten as a suit-preference signal for a heart return. West ruffed the club and returned the king of hearts. Now it was time for East to wake up. If West had another spade it would be best for East to win the second heart and give his partner another club ruff. But if West had no more trumps, East must overtake the king of hearts and return the suit for West to cash two more tricks. He guessed wrong and ducked the first heart. He won the second round and returned a club but declarer won this trick and was able to discard his heart loser on a good club.

This should not have been a guess for East. First, it was unlikely South had rebid such a weak suit with only five and secondly, it is standard practice to play hi-low in the trump suit to show an odd number. West had played the four and then the seven showing an even number so East carelessly allowed South to get away with nine tricks.

#3

Finding the best opening lead can be difficult. Here is a hand where the defender regretted his choice.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir E Vul E/W	♠ K4 ♥ 86 ♦ 10542 ♣ AKQ53	♣ 3 ♥ A1054 ♦ QJ8 ♣ J10764	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 8765 ♥ KJ92 ♦ 963 ♣ 92	♠ AQJ1092 ♥ Q73 ♦ AK7 ♣ 8	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3 ♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass			
West	North	East	South																							
		Pass	1 ♣																							
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣																							
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	Pass																							
Pass																										

BIDDING: North-South had an easy auction to game.

PLAY: After this auction, West was going to lead a red suit and since it's often wrong to lead an ace, he started with the queen of diamonds. Declarer won this with the ace and played all six of his trumps and then started on the club suit. He discarded two hearts and came to this three-card ending (East was immaterial):

	♦ 105	♣ 5
♦ J8		
♣ J		
	♥ Q	♦ K7

Declarer led dummy's last club and discarded his heart. West now had to lead away from his jack of diamonds and declarer had 12 tricks. East asked his partner why he didn't lead a heart but West just sighed and reached for the next hand.

#4

It's not always possible to obtain a complete picture of the opponents' distribution but you can often discover enough to allow you to play the odds.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Dir W ♠ KJ104
 Vul E/W ♥ 764
 ♦ A74
 ♣ Q107

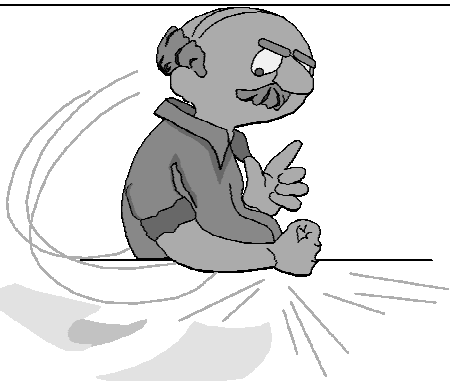
♠87	□	♠Q963
♥KJ83		♥92
♦KQ1095		♦J32
♣63		♣K542
		♠ A52
		♥ AQ105
		♦ 86
		♣ AJ98

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

BIDDING: North-South had an easy auction to game.

PLAY: West led the queen of diamonds asking East to unblock the jack if he held that card. South won the third round of the suit discarding a heart from his hand. Declarer needed the club finesse so he led the ten followed by the queen and brought in that suit. On the last two clubs, West played the eight and the three of hearts indicating possession of the king. Since it was unlikely West would discard down to the singleton king, declarer was confident West's distribution was 2=4=5=2. While this did not mean the queen of spades had to be in the East hand, the odds were 4-2 that it was. So declarer played a spade to dummy's king and then led the jack. He now had his nine tricks.

Perhaps West should not have given away so much information.



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!!

Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2010-11 only
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2011/01/21 70.31% Dennis Moll & Steve Babin
2011/01/24 70.00% Sallie Boge & Hank Hoffman

2010/12/27 70.37% Lori Moore & Patti Corrigan(99ers)
2010/11/10 75.00% Lori & Jim Fernstrom (99ers)
2010/10/27 77.35% Joyce & Bob Clay(99ers)
2010/10/18 80.56% Joe Krause & John Sheen(99ers)
2010/09/13 70.83% Betty Capodice & SteveHawthorne
2010/08/23 85.83% Lori Fernstrom & Lane O'Connor(99ers)
2010/08/18 73.33% Marilyn & Gene Byers(99ers)
2010/08/16 76.11% Vi Kothe & Joyce Werner(99ers)
2010/08/09 70.31% Ann Schuyler & Camilla Rabjohns
2010/07/28 76.39% Sandy Chambers & Patty Paul(99ers)
2010/07/27 70.24% Steve Wulfers & Randall Motchan
2010/07/12 75.76% Joyce & Bob Clay(99ers)
71.26% Dan Liu & Calvin Wu(99ers)
2010/07/05 75.69% Joyce & Bob Clay(99ers)
2010/05/26 72.22% Fran & Lynn Devore(99ers)
2010/05/24 75.00% Vi Kothe & Dorothy Berg(99ers)
2010/05/12 70.00% Lori & Jim Fernstrom(99ers)
2010/05/10 75.00% Marge & Dick Swanberg(99ers)
2010/04/29 72.74% Hank Hoffman & Steve Babin
2010/04/26 73.33% Joyce Clay & JoAnn Schroeder(99ers)
2010/04/26 72.22% Anne Garrett & Patty Paul(99ers)
2010/04/15 71.88% Ann Schuyler & Dennis Moll
2010/04/11 72.50% Eunice Patton & Steve Babin(Schroeder open house)
2010/04/07 74.17% Joyce Werner & Dorothy Berg(99ers)
2010/03/03 72.22% Joyce Werner & Dorothy Berg(99ers)
2010/02/24 73.33% Dan Liu & Don Randall (99ers)
2010/02/17 71.88% Vi Kothe & Dorothy Berg (99ers)
2010/01/04 72.50% Roberta Weddig & Joe Krause (99ers)



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell

#1 – IT PAYS TO COUNT

	♠ 852 ♥ KQ ♦ AKT98 ♣ 742	
♠ KT ♥ 8642 ♦ Q76 ♣ AK93	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>South</i>	♠ J94 ♥ A975 ♦ J3 ♣ QJT8
	♠ AQ763 ♥ JT3 ♦ 542 ♣ 65	
1♠	Dbl	2♠ All Pass

Before seeing the auction, imagine that you are South, playing in 2♠. Looking just at the N-S hands, how would you tackle the trump suit? The percentage play to avoid a second loser is to cash the Ace (a precaution against West having the singleton King), then cross to Dummy and lead towards the Queen. That gets the job done whenever East has the King and it is doubleton or tripleton. As you can see, that is not a success on the actual hand. Declarer loses two trump tricks and ends up going down one. Now let's replay the hand, this time bearing in mind the auction.

South West North East
1♦ Pass

West leads the ♣A and East plays the Queen (showing the Jack). Clubs are continued and you ruff the third round. Next, you cash the ♠A, and lead a Heart which East wins. A Heart comes back, won on the board, and it's time to lead a Spade. Is there any reason for Declarer to be inspired now and play a *low* Spade from hand? Yes, there is! Declarer needs only to remember West's Double of 1♠ and do some counting. West has 7 points in Clubs, a maximum of 3 in Diamonds and none in Hearts. That's not enough for his bidding! He surely has the ♠K and Declarer's only chance is that West started with King doubleton. Such an easy hand for those who take the trouble to do a little counting.

#2 – DELIGHTFUL DECEPTION

The game of bridge is enriched by many beautiful plays and stratagems, and we all love to talk about our latest Trump Coup or Double Squeeze. But even that pales into insignificance when compared to the fun we get from hoodwinking the opponents with a deceptive play. There's nothing a bridge player enjoys more than a little bit of larceny!

	♠ 652 ♥ 874 ♦ A654 ♣ A64	
♠ AKJ ♥ 6532 ♦ JT9 ♣ 987	North West East South	♠ 43 ♥ QT9 ♦ Q873 ♣ JT53
	♠ QT987 ♥ AKJ ♦ K2 ♣ KQ2	

The N-S auction goes 1♠-2♠-4♠. West leads ♦J and when Dummy goes down it's apparent that the success of the contract depends upon not losing three Spades and one Heart. It's a simple hand, wouldn't you say? Declarer wins the Diamond lead in Dummy, and finesses the ♠T, losing to West's Jack. Oh, well, now there are three sure trump losers and Declarer uses Dummy's sole remaining entry to take the Heart finesse. That works, and it's 10 tricks for Declarer, losing just three trumps.

Rewind! That was easy for Declarer, but only because West made it so. On the first round of trumps, when Declarer finessed the ♠T, a more wily West would have played the Ace (or King)! This doesn't cost anything as West still scores three trump tricks eventually. Now, a bamboozled Declarer crosses to Dummy for the last time and repeats the Spade finesse (which he "knows" will work), rather than take the Heart finesse (which may not work). Beating 4♠ by one trick? A fine result! The look on Declarer's face when the second Spade finesse loses? Priceless!

#3 – AN OLD RUSE

Here's a neat deception, but, alas, it won't work against modern signaling methods.

	♠ 54 ♥ 7542 ♦ AQJT ♣ Q93	
♠ KT86 ♥ KT86 ♦ 542 ♣ K4	North West East South	♠ J932 ♥ AJ3 ♦ 976 ♣ 865
	♠ AQ7 ♥ Q9 ♦ K83 ♣ AJT72	

None Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	
	Pass	Pass		

Against 3NT West leads his 4th-best Spade. East's Jack is taken by Declarer's Queen, then a Diamond to Dummy and the losing Club finesse. At this point West can count 9 or 10 tricks for Declarer, via 2 Spades, 4 Diamonds and 3 or 4 Clubs. West's only hope for defeating 3NT is that the defense can cash 4 Hearts. Bingo! He shifts to a low Heart and it's down one.

Take Two! West leads a low Spade, as before, but this time Declarer wins East's Jack with the Ace! Yes, really! Declarer doesn't need a second Spade trick, but he does want to avoid a Heart shift and that extravagance in the Spade suit is just the way to do it. Later, when West wins his ♣K, he's likely to be duped into assuming that East has the ♠Q and will lead another low Spade. 10 tricks!

The Antidote! Twenty or thirty years ago, this sneaky ruse worked every time, but nowadays there is a defensive antidote. It involves East telling partner whether or not he likes that opening Spade lead. When Declarer leads a Diamond at Trick 2, East can signal with the Nine (high means "I like your opening lead"), or with the Six (low means "I don't"). On the actual deal, East plays the discouraging Six, alerting West to Declarer's shenanigans. That signal is called a Smith Echo and is a common agreement among tournament players. For more on this, please Google "smith echo for dummies". No offense, dear readers, it's merely a search which takes you to a most helpful article.

#4 – A LITTLE WHITE LIE

On defense, sometimes a little white lie is necessary in order to point Partner in the right direction. No more clues, here's your problem:

♠ K86 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQJT6 ♣ 76	
<i>Dummy</i>	♠ 9732 ♥ T982 ♦ A8 ♣ 843
<i>West</i> <i>East</i>	
<i>South</i>	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ 2♣ 2♦ Pass

2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Pass Pass

You are sitting East, trying to beat 4♥. Partner leads the ♣A. Where can you find four defensive tricks? No doubt Declarer has the ♠A and the ♥A for that opening bid, so at first glance it may appear that the best the defense can do is to take its two Club tricks and the ♦A. Any ideas for an

extra trick? OK, now that you've solved the problem, the full hand:

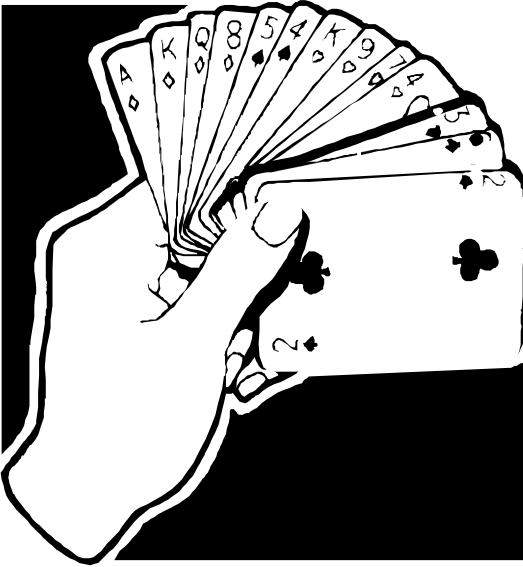
	♠ K86 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQJT6 ♣ 76	
♠ QJT5 ♥ --- ♦ 7432 ♣ AKT95	<i>Dummy</i>	♠ 9732 ♥ T982 ♦ A8 ♣ 843
	<i>West</i> <i>East</i>	
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ A4 ♥ AJ7543 ♦ 95 ♣ QJ2	

That's right, at Trick 1 East false-cards with the ♣8, showing a doubleton! East's plan is to conjure up a trump trick out of thin air. Look what happens! West next cashes the ♣K, and East completes his fake high-low. Then West plays a third round of Clubs and who can blame Declarer for ruffing that trick high in Dummy? Obviously he doesn't want to get overruffed by East, and, anyway, squandering that high trump costs nothing if the trumps are 3-1 or 2-2. But they are 4-0, so East gets a trump trick and it's down one!

It was necessary to fool Partner as well as Declarer. If East had signaled honestly in Clubs, then, at Trick 3, West would no doubt have shifted to the ♠Q, hoping that East has the

Ace and trying to grab a couple of Spade tricks before they disappear on the Diamonds.

Upcoming tournaments:



**Peoria Sectional
March 4 - 6, Hult Health Center,
Peoria, IL**