



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 3 – March, 2011

12 pages



## March Events



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

March 7 – open pairs                      March 14 – open pairs

March 21 – open pairs                     March 28 – open pairs

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

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule:**

Tuesday, March 1, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 2, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 3, 11:45AM – open pairs– Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 5, NO GAME – TOURNAMENT IN PEORIA

Monday, March 7, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 8, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 9, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 10, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 12, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 14, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 15, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 16, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 17, 11:45AM – open pairs – Parke Hotel – SPECIAL LOCATION!

Saturday, March 19, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 21, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 22, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 23, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 24, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 26, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 28, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 29, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 30, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 31, 11:45AM – open pairs– Knights of Columbus

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

All game results are posted online: [clubresults.acbl.org](http://clubresults.acbl.org)

Post game online discussions of deals are available at: [mikesbridge.blogspot.com](http://mikesbridge.blogspot.com)

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

**The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders**  
 As of 3/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 3,299.59 Betty Capodice**
- \*\*\* 2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 2 2,547.65 Steve Babin**
- 3 1,788.42 Mike Tomlianovich**
- \*\*\* 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- \*\*\* 1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 4 1,545.25 Steve Hawthorne**
- 5 1,533.97 Zack Freehill**
- 6 1,418.02 Hank Hoffman**
- 7 1,270.11 Dewey Gronau**
- 8 1,233.85 Eunice Patton**
- \*\*\* 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 9 1,067.92 Stan Gutzman**
- 10 1,059.96 Jeanne Strand**
- 11 1,034.48 Ivey Weaver**
- \*\*\* 780.34 Jack Kessler**
- \*\*\* 741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 12 883.54 Jean Barnett**
- 13 786.09 Don Strand**
- 14 770.78 Glen Beaman**
- 15 754.05 Charlie Morton**
- 16 745.76 Henrietta Crain**
- 17 704.37 Randall Motchan**
- 18 657.71 Ann Schuyler**
- 19 610.73 Martin Compton**
- 20 570.06 Ann Farnsworth**
- 21 567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 22 555.05 Peg Deutsch**
- \*\*\* 474.92 Nona Wooley**
- \*\*\* 481.88 Bev Upp**
- 23 467.84 Dennis Moll**
- 24 460.42 Bob Smith**
- 25 417.77 Dave Freehill**

**\*\*\* deceased**

**Other players:**

- \*\*\*12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy**
- 10,554.76 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 4,031.12 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,879.24 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,480.14 Larry Matheny**
- 2,877.59 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,726.25 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,399.71 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,334.96 Gail Moon**
- 2,254.25 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,267.54 Kish Devaraj**
- 2,144.22 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,093.36 Leah Newell- Springfield**
- 1,996.62 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 1,947.88 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 1,947.43 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 1,821.61 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 1,812.90 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- \*\*\* 1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,713.35 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 1,470.53 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,444.69 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,352.32 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,168.41 Jim Moon**
- 976.02 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- 893.11 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 753.77 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 683.75 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria**
- 700.21 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 639.75 Camilla Rabjohns**
- 620.22 Eunice Viktor-Morton**
- 587.22 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 586.77 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 509.09 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**

# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

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#1

One of the most dangerous bids in bridge is the 1NT overcall. This bid is very easy for the opponents to double. Here is a hand where that advice was ignored.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Dir N  
Vul E/W

♠ J983  
♥ 874  
♦ J2  
♣ 6432

♠ A765  
♥ KQJ1092  
♦ 107  
♣ J



♠ Q4  
♥ 65  
♦ AQ963  
♣ A1087

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	1NT
DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ K102  
♥ A3  
♦ K854  
♣ KQ95

**BIDDING:** South held a good hand but he had points instead of tricks. West doubled and poor North had nowhere to go.

**PLAY:** West led the king of hearts and when the carnage was over, the defense had won ten tricks and a score of +800. South told his partner "It could have been worse; we could have been vulnerable". North was not amused.

At the other table, E/W bid to a 4♥ contract but the opponents found a trump lead and the contract was defeated. This was an expensive lesson for South.

#2

The takeout double is a very valuable tool. However, like most of the conventions available to you, it must be used with caution. Here is a hand where that advice was ignored.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

	♠ A975					
Dir N	♥ 85					
Vul N/S	♦ 10653					
	♣ 973					
♣6		♠KQ10842	West	North	East	South
♥A1062	□	♥J943		Pass	2♣	DBL
♦AK84		♦7	RDB	Pass	Pass	3♣
♣KQJ2		♣108	DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ J3					
	♥ KQ7					
	♦ QJ92					
	♣ A654					

**BIDDING:** This auction was just plain ugly! South might make a takeout double with this hand at the one-level, but he certainly promised a better hand to force his partner to bid at the three-level. West redoubled to show values and North could have tried to escape to diamonds but he hoped South might have a 5-card suit. It was not to be.

**PLAY:** West led the ace of diamonds and when it was over, South managed only four tricks and a score of -1400. To really rub salt in the wound, no one bid and made game E/W.

Aggressive bidding will often payoff but it must be tempered with good judgment.

#3

Aces and the other honor cards usually receive the glory, but every now and then one of the lowly spot cards is the hero. Take a look at a mighty seven's moment in the spotlight.

Scoring: IMPs (Team Game)

Dir N      ♠ J97  
Vul E/W    ♥ AQ4  
             ♦ A92  
             ♣ 7432

♣6	♠A8532
♥J1086	♥753
♦1084	♦653
♣KJ1065	♣A9
	♠ KQ104
	♥ K92
	♦ KQJ7
	♣ Q8

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

**BIDDING:** This was a routine auction to game.

**PLAY:** West decided to attack with his longest suit and promptly put the jack of clubs on the table. After all, this is usually the correct card to lead from this holding. East won the trick with the ace and fired back his other club. East won the king and the jack but the seven in dummy was now high. Declarer simply knocked out the ace of spades and had his nine tricks.

At the other table, West realized he had no other entry to his hand so he started with the six of clubs. His partner also won the ace and returned the suit. These five club tricks along with the ace of spades meant down two for this declarer.

We follow so many rules (third hand high, cover an honor, etc.) but this hand shows it is sometimes better to make an exception.

#4

There's no doubt slam bidding can be difficult. It is important to have agreements that allow you to stop when there is no fit or if the overall strength isn't present. This partnership had a tool that allowed them to make that decision.

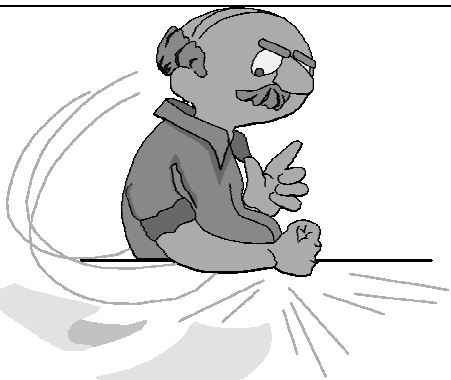
**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs Game)**

Dir E Vul E/W	♠ K732 ♥ K7642 ♦ AK ♣ Q4	♠ 106 ♥ 93 ♦ QJ98 ♣ KJ653	♠ J854 ♥ J10 ♦ 765 ♣ 10987	♠ AQ9 ♥ AQ85 ♦ 10432 ♣ A2	<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>1NT</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>6♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦*	Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South																						
		Pass	1NT																						
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥																						
Pass	4♦*	Pass	6♥																						
Pass	Pass	Pass																							

\*artificial

**BIDDING:** North's hand was strong enough to invite slam but not insist upon it. This N/S partnership has several agreements to show slam invitational sequences. North's bid of 4♦ showed a heart raise, a balanced hand, and was invitational to slam. South like his controls and accepted.

**PLAY:** The play was easy with declarer eventually losing only a club trick. While this is not necessarily a difficult hand to bid, several pairs reached the slam in notrump and were defeated. They did not have an agreement that allowed them to invite slam in a suit contract.



**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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**Eastland Medical Plaza, 1505 Eastland Drive, Bloomington**

<b>2011/01/21</b>	<b>70.31%</b>	<b>Dennis Moll &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2011/01/24</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Sallie Boge &amp; Hank Hoffman</b>
<b>2010/12/27</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Patti Corrigan(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/11/10</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Lori &amp; Jim Fernstrom (99ers)</b>
<b>2010/10/27</b>	<b>77.35%</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Bob Clay(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/10/18</b>	<b>80.56%</b>	<b>Joe Krause &amp; John Sheen(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/09/13</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>Betty Capodice &amp; SteveHawthorne</b>
<b>2010/08/23</b>	<b>85.83%</b>	<b>Lori Fernstrom &amp; Lane O'Connor(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/08/18</b>	<b>73.33%</b>	<b>Marilyn &amp; Gene Byers(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/08/16</b>	<b>76.11%</b>	<b>Vi Kothe &amp; Joyce Werner(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/08/09</b>	<b>70.31%</b>	<b>Ann Schuyler &amp; Camilla Rabjohns</b>
<b>2010/07/28</b>	<b>76.39%</b>	<b>Sandy Chambers &amp; Patty Paul(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/07/27</b>	<b>70.24%</b>	<b>Steve Wulfers &amp; Randall Motchan</b>
<b>2010/07/12</b>	<b>75.76%</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Bob Clay(99ers)</b>
	<b>71.26%</b>	<b>Dan Liu &amp; Calvin Wu(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/07/05</b>	<b>75.69%</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Bob Clay(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/05/26</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Fran &amp; Lynn Devore(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/05/24</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Vi Kothe &amp; Dorothy Berg(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/05/12</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Lori &amp; Jim Fernstrom(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/05/10</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Marge &amp; Dick Swanberg(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/04/29</b>	<b>72.74%</b>	<b>Hank Hoffman &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2010/04/26</b>	<b>73.33%</b>	<b>Joyce Clay &amp; JoAnn Schroeder(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/04/26</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Anne Garrett &amp; Patty Paul(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/04/15</b>	<b>71.88%</b>	<b>Ann Schuyler &amp; Dennis Moll</b>
<b>2010/04/11</b>	<b>72.50%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Steve Babin(Schroeder open house)</b>
<b>2010/04/07</b>	<b>74.17%</b>	<b>Joyce Werner &amp; Dorothy Berg(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/03/03</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Joyce Werner &amp; Dorothy Berg(99ers)</b>
<b>2010/02/24</b>	<b>73.33%</b>	<b>Dan Liu &amp; Don Randall (99ers)</b>
<b>2010/02/17</b>	<b>71.88%</b>	<b>Vi Kothe &amp; Dorothy Berg (99ers)</b>
<b>2010/01/04</b>	<b>72.50%</b>	<b>Roberta Weddig &amp; Joe Krause (99ers)</b>



## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell

### #1 – A DOUBLE ORDER OF DUCK

	♠ K74 ♥ A987 ♦ A9743 ♣ Q	
♠ QJT3 ♥ 4 ♦ JT6 ♣ T8652	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>South</i>	♠ 9865 ♥ 53 ♦ Q8 ♣ A9743
	♠ A2 ♥ KQJT62 ♦ K52 ♣ KJ	

*None Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1♦ Pass  
 1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
 4NT Pass 5♥ Pass  
 6♥ Pass Pass Pass

West leads the ♠Q and, when Dummy goes down, Declarer can see that his 6♥ contract is quite hopeless. The ♣A must be lost and there is no way to avoid a Diamond loser. Declarer will win the opening Spade, draw trumps and then cash the ♦K and ♦A before conceding the third round of Diamonds. When West wins the ♦J, he will quickly shift to a Club, and East's ♣A scores the setting trick before

Declarer's Clubs disappear on the long Diamonds. Down one.

But that's not what happened! It's true, looking at all four hands, that 6♥ *should* go down, but West was looking at only two hands. Taking advantage of that, Declarer came up with a truly brilliant deception. He ducked the opening lead in both hands! The defense can now cash the ♣A to beat the contract, but it never occurred to West that his partner might have the ♣A and not the ♠A. So, naturally enough, West persisted with Spades. Imagine West's surprise when Declarer's Ace won the second Spade trick! Next, trumps were drawn, a Diamond was pitched on the ♠K, the ♦K was cashed, then the ♦A, and a Diamond was ruffed. Now there were two good Diamonds in Dummy, on which Declarer was able to pitch his losing Clubs. Making 12 tricks!

A most unusual hand! Declarer started out with an inescapable loser in Diamonds and another in Clubs. But, thanks to that lovely first round double duck, he ended up losing a Spade but nothing else!



## #2 – A PRACTICE FINESSE

The humble finesse is the first thing we learn, and we also learn that some finesses win, some lose. Later we learn that some finesses are purely for practice and serve no useful purpose. Here is a case in point.

	♠ QJ965 ♥ KJ97 ♦ A2 ♣ AQ	
♠ 843 ♥ ♦ KJ983 ♣ J9875	<i>North</i>	♠ ♥ Q65432 ♦ QT4 ♣ KT63
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ AKT72 ♥ AT8 ♦ 765 ♣ 42	

Both Vulnerable

**South West North East**

1♠ 2NT Dbl 5♣

Pass Pass 6♠ All Pass

West's 2NT was the "Unusual No Trump", showing both minors, and North eventually plunged (some would say recklessly) into slam. West leads a Club, your job is to make 12 tricks.

A Diamond loser is unavoidable, so you must guess the whereabouts of the ♥Q if this slam is to make. And then there is the small matter of the Club suit. Do you take the finesse? Surprisingly, it's not necessary! We've already

determined that you need to bring in the Hearts, and if that is the case then the 4<sup>th</sup> round of Hearts can be used to pitch the Club loser.

OK, you hop up with the ♣A, and draw trumps, ending on the board. Who has the ♥Q? Surely East! West's bidding showed both minors (usually 5-5) and later he played three Spades. That doesn't leave room for many Hearts! So, Declarer runs the ♥J around and West predictably shows out. Another Heart finesse, the ♥A is cashed, over to the ♦A, then the Club loser goes on the ♥K. Making 12 tricks, losing just a Diamond.

Getting the Heart suit right did not require rocket science. Realizing that the Club finesse was not needed? Not so obvious. The winning train of thought was: I must lose a Diamond ... so I cannot lose a Heart ... if I don't lose a Heart then I can park the losing Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> round of Hearts.

### #3 – FINESSES ARE EASY

Of course they are! You just lead towards the AQ or KJ or some such holding, and, when fate is kind, an extra trick materializes. But, if they can, experienced players will avoid the whims of fate, as in this deal.

	♠ JT765 ♥ 652 ♦ A7 ♣ AT8	
♠ 98 ♥ QJT7 ♦ KJ6 ♣ Q652	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>South</i>	♠ 4 ♥ 983 ♦ QT9852 ♣ K97
	♠ AKQ32 ♥ AK4 ♦ 43 ♣ J43	

*Both Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

4♠ All Pass

West leads the ♥Q, and Declarer can see a certain loser in Hearts and another in Diamonds. So, if 4♠ is to make, then Declarer must avoid losing two Clubs. Any ideas?

One way to play Clubs (after drawing trumps) is to finesse the Ten, hoping that West has the King *and* the Queen. That's somewhat unlikely (around 25%). Another possibility is to finesse the *Eight*, and later finesse the Ten, hoping that West has K9 or Q9. That's a 37% chance. Or, Declarer might

run the Jack, giving himself the extra chance that West might neglect to cover with his honor.

Which finesse will you choose? The correct answer is that you don't care for *any* of these finesses, you much prefer the 100% method! Draw trumps, cash the red suit winners and exit with a Heart (or a Diamond). The defenders can take their Heart and Diamond tricks but now their goose is cooked. If they lead another red card then Declarer pitches a Club loser from one hand and ruffs in the other hand (the so-called "ruff and sluff"). And if they break open Clubs then Declarer will lose only one trick in the suit. Yes, finesses are easy, especially when you can avoid taking them!

#### #4 – ONE FINESSE TOO MANY

It's great when our finesse works, but against a cunning opponent, when we try that same finesse a second time, we sometimes get an unpleasant surprise.

	♠ J ♥ QJT ♦ T97 ♣ AJT954	
♠ 862 ♥ K953 ♦ 865 ♣ Q87	North West      East South	♠ 73 ♥ 872 ♦ K432 ♣ K632
	♠ AKQT954 ♥ A64 ♦ AQJ ♣	

*N-S Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

2♣ Pass 3♣ Pass

3♣ Pass 3NT Pass

6♣ All Pass

After that artificial (and strong) 2♣ opening, the rest of the auction was natural. West leads a trump against your slam, how do you propose to make 12 tricks?

It may be too late already, but let's do this one without peeking at the E-W hands. The opening trump lead has knocked out your entry to Dummy, and you must use that entry to take one of those red suit finesses. Which one?

Surely it must be right to finesse in Hearts because, if that loses to West, you'll have a Heart entry back to the board for the Diamond finesse.

So, the ♥Q is led from the board and it holds. Yippee! Now Dummy's ♣A is cashed (pitching a Diamond) and the winning Heart finesse is repeated. Oops! This time that dastardly West fellow produces the King! Even worse, Declarer now has no way of avoiding a Diamond loser also. Down one! When the first Heart finesse worked, Declarer took his eye off the ball. He must realize that a second Heart finesse is unnecessary. After the ♥Q wins, the 100% safe line is to cash the ♣A (pitching a *Heart*), ruff a Club high (just in case there is an overruff in the cards), then draw trumps and give up a Diamond.



**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!!**

## **Upcoming tournaments:**



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