



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 4 – April, 2011

12 pages



April Events



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

April 4 – open pairs

April 14 – open pairs

April 18 – open pairs

April 25 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, April 9, NO GAME – Tournament in Galesburg

Monday, April 4, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, April 5, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, April 6, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, April 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, April 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, April 11, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, April 12, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, April 13, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, April 14, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, April 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, April 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, April 19, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, April 20, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, April 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, April 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, April 25, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, April 26, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, April 27, 1:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, April 28, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, April 30, NO GAME – GNT in Riverton

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 3/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 3,304.25 Betty Capodice**
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 2 2,566.17 Steve Babin**
- 3 1,796.25 Mike Tomlianovich**
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 4 1,554.63 Steve Hawthorne**
- 5 1,553.79 Zack Freehill**
- 6 1,423.56 Hank Hoffman**
- 7 1,279.00 Dewey Gronau**
- 8 1,238.37 Eunice Patton**
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 9 1,075.16 Stan Gutzman**
- 10 1,061.69 Jeanne Strand**
- 11 1,035.01 Ivey Weaver**
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler**
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 12 883.54 Jean Barnett**
- 13 787.22 Don Strand**
- 14 771.57 Glen Beaman**
- 15 757.83 Charlie Morton**
- 16 747.15 Henrietta Crain**
- 17 705.99 Randall Motchan**
- 18 666.35 Ann Schuyler**
- 19 610.73 Martin Compton**
- 20 570.46 Ann Farnsworth**
- 21 567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 22 557.37 Peg Deutsch**
- *** 474.92 Nona Wooley**
- *** 481.88 Bev Upp**
- 23 471.55 Dennis Moll**
- 24 460.42 Bob Smith**
- 25 423.01 Dave Freehill**

***** deceased**

Other players:

- ***12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy**
- 10,556.25 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 4,034.64 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,883.99 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,501.70 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- 2,891.52 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,727.02 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,400.50 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,341.79 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,268.76 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,281.38 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,154.95 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,102.89 Leah Newell- Springfield**
- 1,997.42 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 1,951.08 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 1,952.44 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 1,821.61 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 1,818.07 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,730.54 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 1,478.26 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,446.64 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,353.00 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,175.24 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- 979.11 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- 895.89 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 754.59 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 683.75 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria**
- 700.21 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 644.35 Camilla Rabjohns**
- 620.22 Eunice Viktor-Morton**
- 587.98 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 586.77 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 510.05 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**

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#1

It's natural to trust your partner during the auction and on defense but there are also times when you need to believe what your opponents are telling you. Take a look.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs Game)

#11-01 ♠ 106
 Dir E ♥ AK1074
 Vul E/W ♦ 86
 ♣ K952

| | |
|-------|----------|
| ♠Q742 | ♠K853 |
| ♥853 | ♥QJ96 |
| ♦AJ5 | ♦742 |
| ♣J76 | ♣Q3 |
| | ♠ AJ9 |
| | ♥ 2 |
| | ♦ KQ1093 |
| | ♣ A1094 |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

BIDDING: North had enough to invite game and South accepted.

PLAY: West led the deuce of spades and declarer stopped to count his tricks. He had only six top tricks (2 spades, 2 hearts, and 2 clubs) so it was clear he needed to develop the diamond suit. Next he asked if E/W led fourth best and they acknowledged that was their agreement. With that information he saw he could afford to lose two diamonds and two spades. He won East's spade king with his ace and led the king of diamonds. After all it was possible there was a singleton jack. West won the ace of diamonds and continued with the queen and another spade. Declarer won and knocked out the jack of diamonds. West cashed his last spade but declarer had nine tricks.

At some tables declarer entered dummy with a club to lead a diamond toward his hand. However when West won the diamond, he returned a heart presenting declarer with a problem. After winning the ace, if he cashed the king of hearts, he would leave that suit wide open. If he didn't cash the king, with no other entries to dummy he would only have eight tricks. A similar problem occurred for those declarers who entered dummy with a heart.

Sometime you have to trust your opponents.

#2

The expert will avoid taking a finesse unless it offers the best chance to succeed. Here is a hand where that decision was put off until trick twelve.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs Game)

#11-02
Dir E
Vul E/W

♠ A53
♥ J9
♦ AQ105
♣ AQ104

♠6
♥Q7
♦87643
♣J8765



♠82
♥AK1086542
♦K
♣32

♠ KQJ10974
♥ 3
♦ J92
♣ K9

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | 4♥ | 4♠ |
| Pass | 5♠ | Pass | 6♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

BIDDING: After East's preemptive opening, South decided to test the old theory that "It's always right to bid 4♠ over 4♥". North's raise asked South to bid the slam if he had a heart control and South nervously complied.

PLAY: West led the queen of hearts overtaken by East. Another high heart was led and declarer ruffed high. It appeared to declarer that he needed either to find the king of diamonds or the jack of clubs in the West hand. But following that reasoning, he saw a finesse might not be necessary. He drew trumps followed by three rounds of clubs discarding a diamond. When East discarded a heart on the third club, declarer proceeded to play the rest of his trumps. Here was the end position at trick eleven:



On the last spade, West discarded a diamond, dummy the club, and East a heart. A diamond was lead toward dummy and when West followed with the eight, declarer knew West's remaining card was the jack of clubs so he played the ace and was delighted to see the king fall. Those who took the diamond finesse were sadly disappointed.

#3

Scientific bidding is nice but every now and then a hand comes along that doesn't lend itself to any conventional bid. That is what happened to me in a recent game. Take a look at a gorgeous hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs Game)

#11-03 ♠ J6
Dir W ♥ AJ42
Vul E/W ♦ 1096
♣ 9642

♠K ♠7
♥Q9875 ♠K1063
♦Q7532 ♦4
♣73 ♣AKQJ1085
♠ AQ10985432
♥
♦ AKJ8
♣

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 6♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

BIDDING: I was in the South chair and after my right hand opponent opened the bidding, I wasn't sure how to bid this 9-0-4-0 monster. Finally I bid just what I thought (hoped?) I could make. Both opponents passed in silence but my partner looked like he wanted to check to see what was in my coffee cup.

PLAY: West led his partner's suit and I was presented with a reasonable dummy. I could either play for the spades to be 1-1 or play the spade queen from my hand forcing an entry to dummy to take the diamond finesse. I finally decided to play the ace of spades and was rewarded when the king dropped. I then led a spade to the jack, discarded the eight of diamonds on the ace of hearts, and took the losing diamond finesse.

Unfortunately for me, three other declarers who bid the slam were doubled and one N/S pair even made an overtrick. Some days you just can't win.

#4

Roman Keycard Blackwood is a powerful convention. It treats the king of the agreed suit and the four aces as equals. In addition, the convention give you is the ability to ask your partner if he holds the queen of the soon to be trump suit. Here is a hand where that was an important question.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs Game)

#11-04 ♣ AK109
 Dir W ♥ AKJ10874
 Vul E/W ♦ A
 ♣ K

♣7 ♣Q54
 ♥32 ♥Q95
 ♦QJ1063 ♦974
 ♣Q8542 ♣J963

♠ J8632
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K852
 ♣ A107

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♦* |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | 5♠** |
| Pass | 6♠ | Pass | Pass |

*one keycard
 **sorry, no spade queen

BIDDING: South's 2♦ response showed values but denied a strong suit. After North showed his heart suit, South then bid his poor quality spade suit. North raised spades to set the trump suit and South cue the ace of clubs. North became excited and launched Roman Keycard. South showed one keycard and next North asked about the queen of spades. South denied holding her majesty so North gave up on the grand slam.

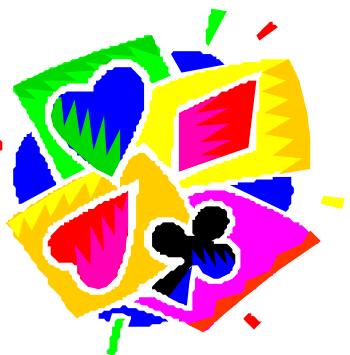
PLAY: West led the queen of diamonds and declarer quickly wrapped up the slam. He played the two top trumps followed by three rounds of hearts ruffing in his hand. At those tables where standard Blackwood was used, the North players discovered South held an ace and a king and bid 7♣. They were soon disappointed. The Queen Ask is a very important feature.



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 2011 only
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| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| 2011/03/23 | 72.22% | Marilyn & Gene Byers(99ers) |
| 2011/03/15 | 72.00% | Hank Hoffman & Steve Babin |
| 2011/03/02 | 84.26% | Joyce Werner & Dorothy Berg(99ers) |
| 2011/03/01 | 72.00% | Steve Wulfers & Randall Motchan |
| 2011/02/10 | 70.00% | Steve Hawthorne & Zach Freehill |
| 2011/02/08 | 71.00% | Margaret Hansell & Steve Babin |
| 2011/01/21 | 70.31% | Dennis Moll & Steve Babin |
| 2011/01/24 | 70.00% | Sallie Boge & Hank Hoffman |



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell

#13 - NO SAFE EXIT

This month's deals have been about finessing. In earlier weeks we were trying to avoid them in favor of better alternatives. But this week, we are actually going to take a finesse. Eventually.

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

6♥ All Pass

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ AQ654 ♥ K843 ♦ K7 ♣ 76 | |
| ♠ JT9 ♥ 65 ♦ J965 ♣ QJT9 | <i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>South</i> | ♠ K8 ♥ T ♦ T8432 ♣ 85432 |
| | ♠ 732 ♥ AQJ972 ♦ AQ ♣ AK | |

N-S take the express lane to 6♥ and West leads the ♠Q. You will win that and draw trumps in two rounds, but then what? You have 11 tricks, can you find the 12th?

This hand appears to depend on a successful Spade finesse and, if the ♠K is with West, then 6♥ makes. But that King is with East on the actual lie of the cards. Does that mean it's down one? Not at all! Having drawn trumps, Declarer cashes those minor suit winners, and leads a Spade to the Ace. Then he crosses back to hand with a trump and leads a

Spade towards the Queen. East wins the King but has no safe exit. With nothing left but minor suit cards, whatever he plays will give Declarer a ruff and sluff. Declarer will pitch the Spade loser from his hand and ruff on the board. Making 12 tricks.

Taking the delayed finesse gave Declarer a second way to win. He would still make his slam whenever West had the ♠K, and he would also succeed when the King was doubleton with East. But only if Declarer cashes his minor suit winners first, forcing East to concede that ruff and sluff after winning the doubleton King.

#14 - A COUPLE OF UPPER-CUTS

This month we take a look at “trump promotion”. Put yourself in the West seat, defending 4♠.

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♦ 4♥

4♠ All Pass

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ T9 ♥ J ♦ AQJ32 ♣ Q5432 | |
| ♠ J87 ♥ A ♦ 98754 ♣ AKT8 | North West East South | ♠ 64 ♥ KQ986532 ♦ 6 ♣ 76 |
| | ♠ AKQ532 ♥ T74 ♦ KT ♣ J9 | |

To start with, please locate a sheet of paper or your morning slice of toast (marmalade side facing up). Place it diagonally across the diagram, so that only the West and North hands are showing. As West, your opening lead is the ♣A on which Partner plays the Seven and Declarer the Nine. Next, you cash the ♠K (everyone following the suit), then the ♥A. You’ve cashed your three winners, where’s the setting trick? A Diamond ruff? No, Partner had two Clubs, and can hardly have more than two Spades. He cannot have 2=9=0=2 distribution, with that shape he would surely have pushed

on to 5♥. The only other possibility is a trump trick. Yes, indeed! The magic card here, amazingly enough, is the Spade Six! You lead another Club, and if East ruffs with the Six he forces Declarer to overruff with an honor, promoting a trick for your ♠J! This form of trump promotion is known as an upper-cut, and East must ruff with the Smashing Six to deliver the knock-out blow. Ruffing with the Feeble Four would be no more than a tickle under Declarer’s chin.

A Second Upper-Cut! Next, imagine that *East* is Declarer, playing in 4♥. South cashes the ♠A, ♠K, and leads a third Spade, which North ruffs with the ♥J. Another upper-cut, promoting South’s ♥T? No, Declarer simply pitches away his Diamond loser and makes his contract. Let’s have a do over. After cashing the top two Spades, South cashes the ♦K, and *then* leads the third Spade. Now Declarer really is done for, this time the upper-cut sets the contract.

#15 - A CHOICE OF PROMOTIONS

Continuing this month's theme, here is a hand where E-W can beat South's 3♥ contract in one of two ways, each involving a trump promotion.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ JT7 ♥ 98 ♦ AQ54 ♣ 9543 | |
| ♠ K2 ♥ Q2 ♦ JT32 ♣ AKJT7 | North West East South | ♠ AQ8653 ♥ J3 ♦ 987 ♣ 62 |
| | ♠ 94 ♥ AKT7654 ♦ K6 ♣ Q8 | |

None Vulnerable

East South West North

2♠ 3♥ All Pass

East's 2♠ was a "Weak Two", showing a 6-card suit and less than opening values.

With trumps 2-2, it may appear that the defense can manage four black suit winners and nothing else. But, no, the defense can also rustle up a trump trick! West cashes the ♣A and ♣K and leads a third Club. East must ruff with the Jack and now the defense has a trump trick, because an overruff by Declarer sets up West's ♠Q. But you see the snag? Yes, of course, Declarer won't overruff, instead she'll

dump a Spade loser, still making 9 tricks.

Let's try it a different way. This time the defense starts out by cashing its *Spade* winners, and, at Trick 3, East leads another Spade. As before, this promotes a trump trick for the defense, whether Declarer ruffs high or low. But, she won't do either, again she'll wriggle out of her predicament by pitching a loser, this time it will be a Club.

OK, here's the defense's last chance to get it right! They must cash *all four* of their side-suit tricks first. So, the ♣A, ♣K, ♠K, ♠Q take the first four tricks. Now, at Trick 5, another Spade from East dooms Declarer. The defense having cashed all their winners first, Declarer has no losers left to pitch, and this time the trump promotion produces a 5th trick. Down one!

Post Script It may be trump promotion overkill, but there is even a *third* one on this deal. Picture East declaring 2♠ (perhaps South was snoozing through the auction). The ♥A, ♥K are cashed, then the three Diamond winners. When North leads a fourth Diamond, Declarer is helpless, and the defense has conjured up the setting trick in trumps.

#16 - DON'T OVERRUFF!

This week you are South, defending 3♠. You must make *three* good plays in order to beat this contract. Are you up to the challenge?

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ K5 ♥ AKT98 ♦ J ♣ KJ985 | |
| ♠ 2 ♥ Q764 ♦ KQ752 ♣ QT4 | <i>North</i> <i>Dummy Declarer</i> <i>South</i> | ♠ QJT9743 ♥ 53 ♦ AT3 ♣ A |
| | ♠ A86 ♥ J2 ♦ 9864 ♣ 7632 | |

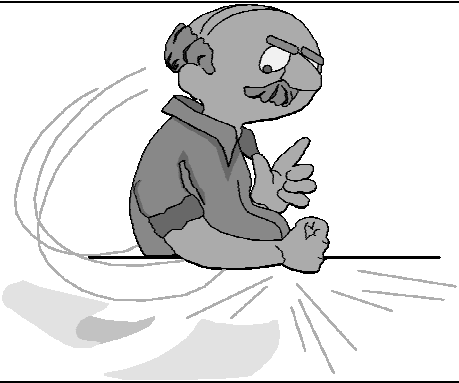
Both Vulnerable

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| 1NT | 2♥ | 2♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♣ | 3♠ | All Pass |

Before you take your place in the South seat, let's admire Declarer's robust Spade suit. The ♠T and ♠9 are big cards! After the high enemy Spades have been knocked out, those intermediates can look after the rest of the suit. In fact, even if the trumps split 4-1, that lovely Spade Nine will come to the rescue and make sure that the enemy ♠8 does no damage. Well, "Phooey!" is what N-S have to say to about

that. They are about to score their lowly ♠8, even though trumps are 3-2!

Sitting South, you lead the ♥J. That holds the trick, Partner playing the Ten. You lead another Heart, this one being won by Partner's Eight. Declarer ruffs the third round with the ♠9, and it's time for your first good play. *Don't overruff!* Now Declarer leads the ♠Q, and you make your second good play, *you duck your Ace!* Well, perhaps that play was not so brilliant, there was no rush to take that trick. And, anyway, you would look extremely foolish if your Ace crashed Partner's singleton King! As it happens, Partner wins the trick with the ♠K and, with relentless single-mindedness, leads another round of Hearts. Declarer ruffs with the Ten and it's time for the third good play. *Don't overruff!* That's right, your stubborn refusal, on three occasions, to play the ♠A has orchestrated a trump promotion! The defense scores two Hearts and three trumps for down one. Who would have thought that A86 would produce *two* natural trump tricks?



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:



**Galesburg Sectional
April 1 - 3, Sandburg Mall,
Galesburg, IL**

**District 8 Grand National Teams
April 30 – May 1, Eagles Club
Riverton, IL**