



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 8 – August, 2011

10 pages



August Events



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

August 1 – open pairs

August 8 – NAP qualifier open pairs

August 15 – open pairs

August 22 – open pairs

August 29 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, August 1, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, August 2, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, August 3, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, August 4, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, August 6, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, August 8, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, August 9, 6:15PM – NAP qualifier open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, August 10, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, August 11, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, August 13, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs – Westminster

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

Tuesday, August 16, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, August 17, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, August 18, 11:45AM – Addison-Lombard Charity CC open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, August 20, 11:45AM – Addison-Lombard Charity CC open pairs – Westminster

Monday, August 22, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, August 23, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, August 24, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, August 25, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, August 27, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, August 29, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, August 30, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, August 31, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only 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

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 5/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,329.52 Betty Capodice**
- 2 **2,641.40 Steve Babin**
- *** **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3 **1,832.88 Mike Tomlianovich**
- 4 **1,628.77 Zack Freehill**
- 5 **1,576.02 Steve Hawthorne**
- 6 **1,469.82 Hank Hoffman**
- *** **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- *** **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 7 **1,310.42 Dewey Gronau**
- 8 **1,268.12 Eunice Patton**
- *** **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 9 **1,097.42 Stan Gutzman**
- 10 **1,065.07 Jeanne Strand**
- 11 **1,040.63 Ivey Weaver**
- 12 **896.99 Jean Barnett**
- 13 **790.97 Charlie Morton**
- 14 **788.39 Don Strand**
- *** **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- 15 **774.51 Glen Beaman**
- 16 **752.20 Henrietta Crain**
- *** **741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 17 **728.06 Randall Motchan**
- 18 **706.72 Ann Schuyler**
- 19 **610.73 Martin Compton**
- 20 **573.48 Peg Deutsch**
- 21 **570.46 Ann Farnsworth**
- *** **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 22 **484.07 Dennis Moll**
- *** **481.88 Bev Upp**
- *** **474.92 Nona Wooley**
- 23 **461.38 Bob Smith**
- 24 **450.20 Dave Freehill**
- 25 **416.27 Steve Wulfers**
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy**
- 10,610.54 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 4,057.04 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,904.26 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,572.64 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- 2,995.61 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,765.97 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,401.88 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,364.05 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,336.27 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,293.74 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,186.77 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,127.40 Leah Newell- Springfield**
- 2,043.72 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,015.24 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 1,978.37 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 1,924.01 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 1,838.75 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- *** **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,797.15 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 1,506.52 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,466.65 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,378.18 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,198.00 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- 1,004.61 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- 908.91 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 759.72 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 713.76 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 687.14 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria**
- 681.79 Camilla Rabjohns**
- 621.75 Eunice Viktor-Morton**
- 596.53 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 586.77 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 532.17 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**
- 417.35 Chris Biggs-South Carolina**

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#1

It's not always easy to discover what honor cards your partner holds but if you ask the right question, sometimes you strike gold.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-17	♠ J93				
Dir S	♥ 542				
Vul N/S	♦ Q963	West	North	East	South
	♣ AQ6				1 ♠
♠ K72		Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
♥ J7	♠ 105	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
♦ A10742	♥ 983	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ J85	♦ KJ85				
	♣ 10742				
	♠ AQ864				
	♥ AKQ106				
	♦				
	♣ K93				

BIDDING: South was delighted to receive a raise from his partner and started thinking about slam. Since bidding any number of hearts wouldn't help, he made a help suit game try in clubs. North cooperated by raising clubs to show a good holding including the ace. This was all South needed and he quickly bid the slam.

PLAY: Holding the king of trumps and the ace of diamonds, West was optimistic about defeating the slam and started with the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and saw he only needed to keep his spade losers to one. He played the ace of spades and continued with a low one to the jack. With the hearts behaving declarer quickly claimed twelve tricks.

#2

The usual signal to partner's lead is attitude. This lets him know if you want the suit continued or perhaps want him to shift to another suit. However, there are many occasions where a suit preference signal is used instead. Take a look as this tool is used effectively.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-18	♠ AK74				
Dir S	♥ KQ874				
Vul N/S	♦ J5	West	North	East	South
	♣ 104				1 ♣
♠1086		Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
♥A	♠3	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	Pass
♦10982	♥J1095	Pass			
♣Q8632	♦AK743	Pass			
	♣J97				
	♠ QJ952				
	♥ 632				
	♦ Q6				
	♣ AK5				

BIDDING: N/S had a routine auction to game.

PLAY: West led his ace of hearts and East was confident it was a singleton. East followed with the jack to show his entry was in diamonds, the higher of the two side suits. West switched to the deuce of diamonds and East won the king. He returned the ten of hearts for West to ruff. West played another diamond to East's ace and another heart was ruffed for a two-trick set.

Note that if East does not give a suit preference signal, West would have to guess which suit to lead at trick two. If he chose a club (or a spade), declarer would lose only one heart and two diamonds.

#3

The expert will take a finesse only when all other options have been eliminated. Here is a hand where the declarer found out everything he needed to succeed without taking a finesse.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-19	♠ AQ2				
Dir S	♥ AQ				
Vul N/S	♦ 9865	West	North	East	South
	♣ A842				1NT
♠J10843		Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
♥J74	♠9	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦KJ2	♥96532				
♣65	♦10743				
	♣J107				
	♠ K765				
	♥ K108				
	♦ AQ				
	♣ KQ93				

BIDDING: North invited slam with his raise to 4NT and South with a maximum accepted.

PLAY: West led the jack of spades and declarer counted eleven tricks: 3 spades, 3 hearts, 1 diamond, and (hopefully) 4 clubs. The obvious chances for a twelfth trick were for the spades to break 3-3 or the diamond king to be in the East hand. Declarer decided to find out more about the hand. He won the spade queen, unblocked dummy's two hearts, followed by four rounds of clubs. West discarded a spade and a diamond on the last two clubs while East pitched a heart. On the king of hearts West followed with the jack and declarer next led a spade to dummy as East discarded the last heart. It was now clear that West remained with two spades and two diamonds. Declarer simply played a spade to the king and the last one to West's ten. Poor West now had to lead a diamond into declarer's AQ.

There was really nothing difficult about this hand. Declarer just had to play his winning tricks and count.

#4

Good communication with your partner is essential for effective defense. Here is a hand where a message was delivered and understood.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-20	♠ K10973				
Dir E	♥ 743				
Vul N/S	♦ Q7				
	♣ A52	West	North	East	South
♠54				1 ♣	1 ♥
♥1086	♠J8	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
♦K98632	♥A2	Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
♣86	♦J1054	Pass			
	♣KQJ109				
	♠ AQ62				
	♥ KQJ95				
	♦ A				
	♣ 743				

BIDDING: After receiving a raise from his partner, South made a help-suit game try in spades. With a maximum raise and plenty of help in spades, North jumped to the heart game. It would have been better if he had accepted by raising spades.

PLAY: West led the eight of clubs and declarer won the ace. A heart was led from dummy and declarer won with the king as West followed with the eight. Next, declarer led the queen of hearts, West played the six, and East won the ace. East cashed two top clubs with West following once and then discarding a discouraging diamond. Judging there was no diamond trick for the defense and that any spade winner would not go away, East played his last club and West's ten of hearts was soon promoted into the fourth trick for the defense.

To make this hand, declarer must go to dummy with a spade to lead the second round of trumps. Then when the fourth round of clubs is played, declarer can ruff high and then pull West's ten of hearts. Note the hi-low in trumps by West showed an odd number so East knew his partner held a third trump.



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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2011/07/28	70.84%	Hank Hoffman & Mike Tomlianovich
2011/07/25	72.06%	Lynn Steffen & Lori Moore(99ers)
2011/07/14	71.43%	Steve Hawthorne & Zach Freehill
2011/06/13	70.14%	Mary Tweedie & Lori Moore(99ers)
2011/05/16	73.89%	Joyce Werner & Dorothy Berg(99ers)
2011/05/12	73.81%	Lane O'Connor & Jerry Oswald
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
2011/01/24	70.00%	Sallie Boge & Hank Hoffman
2011/01/21	70.31%	Dennis Moll & Steve Babin

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#29 - TAKE FOUR

This time you are playing E-W, and as the problem is a tough one you get four attempts to beat the contract.

	♠ 876 ♥ K32 ♦ AK98 ♣ J92	
♠ AJT43 ♥ JT4 ♦ Q54 ♣ 73	<i>North</i>	♠ KQ9 ♥ Q65 ♦ T7632 ♣ 65
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ 52 ♥ A987 ♦ J ♣ AKQT84	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♣ 1♠ Dbl 2♠

4♥ All Pass

North's bid was a Negative Double, showing the unbid suits. She usually has 4 cards in the unbid major for that bid, but was stuck for a good alternative. Anyway, South lands in 4♥, and you are on defense. Can you beat this precarious contract?

Take 1: Spades are led, Declarer ruffing the third round. The ♥8 is ducked around to East's Queen. But East has no

Spades left, and it's easy for Declarer to win whatever is returned, draw trumps and claim the rest. Cut!

Take 2: The defense has a certain trump trick and they must make sure that it is West who wins that trick. This allows Spades to be continued, causing Declarer to lose trump control. So, when the ♥8 is led, West must hop up with the Ten, forcing Declarer to play Dummy's King. Now a Heart to Declarer's Ace and a low Heart to East's Queen. Again the wrong defender has won the Heart trick. Cut!

Take 3: OK, suppose West plays his ♥T on the first round, forcing Dummy's King, but then, on the second round, East cleverly jumps up with the Queen. No, that won't work either, Declarer simply lets the Queen win. Cut!

Take 4: As before, West plays the ♥T, and East must do his part by dropping the ♥Q under Dummy's King! Great defense! This guarantees that West wins the defense's Heart trick and he is the one who can play Spades. Down one!

That would be an awfully hard defense to find at the table, don't you think? In fact, it's tough enough even when looking at all four hands. But a thing of beauty nonetheless, all the more so as it gave both defenders a starring role.

#30 - COUNT SIGNALS

Count Dracula may have been a scary fellow, but Count Signals can be the defenders' best friend, as illustrated in this week's deal. You are West, so try looking at just the N-W hands and see if you can beat 5♠ doubled.

	♠ 65 ♥ ♦ K98762 ♣ KQT96	
♠ Q ♥ AKT43 ♦ AJ54 ♣ A53	North West East Declarer	♠ 874 ♥ QJ962 ♦ QT ♣ 842
	♠ AKJT932 ♥ 875 ♦ 3 ♣ J7	

None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
3♠	Dbl	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

You lead a high Heart, ruffed in Dummy. Then a Club is played to Declarer's Jack. Do you win this trick? And how do you propose to set the contract?

You could grab your ♣A and lead your trump. That will stop a second Heart ruff in Dummy. The danger is that, after

drawing trumps, if Declarer has a second Club, she will be able to run the Clubs, pitching away all her red suit losers.

Does that mean you should duck the first Club trick? Not necessarily, that could also be fatal. Declarer's Jack might be singleton in which case, if you duck, Declarer ruffs another Heart in Dummy, returns to hand with a Club ruff, and draws trumps. Her shape is likely to be 7=3=2=1, and she can now build her 11th trick by leading a Diamond towards Dummy.

So, the success of the defense depends upon West guessing whether Declarer started with one or two Clubs. But no guessing is required for those defenders who give count signals when Declarer leads a suit. If E-W are using this valuable tool then, on the first round of Clubs, East plays low to show an odd number (of Clubs), and high to show an even number.

On the actual deal, East plays the Two, so West knows that Declarer's ♣J cannot be singleton and that he can safely duck that trick. After winning the ♣J, Declarer ruffs another Heart in Dummy, but can score no more than 10 tricks. If East started with ♣8742, he would play the Eight on the first round of Clubs (high to show an even number), from which West deduces that the ♣J is singleton (Jxx is possible but less likely) and that the ♣A must be grabbed and a trump returned.

#31 - THE SAFE HAND

	♠ K543 ♥ AT ♦ A97 ♣ 8543	
♠ J92 ♥ J94 ♦ J652 ♣ J62	North West East Declarer	♠ AQT8 ♥ K7532 ♦ T84 ♣ 9
	♠ 76 ♥ Q86 ♦ KQ3 ♣ AKQT7	

Both Vulnerable

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

3NT is the normal contract and 9 top tricks are available. But this event was duplicate bridge where it's not always enough just to make your contract, it's also important to make overtricks. So, the question for you South players is "How do you make 10 tricks after an opening Diamond lead?"

Hearts are the best place to get that extra trick and there are two ways to tackle the suit ... either finesse the Ten hoping that West has the Jack ... or lead towards the Queen hoping

that East has the King. As you can see both plays work and will earn that valuable overtrick. But playing East for the ♥K is dangerous! If it turns out that West has the King then he can shift dramatically to the ♠J and South's cold contract is down one! The correct play is to win the opening lead in hand and finesse the ♥T, forcing East to win the trick. On this deal, East is the "safe hand", the one that cannot make the deadly Spade shift through Dummy's King.

Post Script When Declarer led a Heart towards Dummy's AT West could have made a brilliant and spectacular play! If he rises majestically with the Jack then Declarer will fear that West started with the King as well. If that's the case then the 10th trick cannot be developed without letting the danger hand gain the lead and the play of the ♥J might persuade a nervous (aka chicken) Declarer to settle for 9 tricks. But a bold Declarer will go for the gusto, playing a second round of Hearts and risking the contract for the precious overtrick.

#32 - SECOND HAND HIGH

"Second hand low" is common advice, but this is a hand where it pays to ignore that recommendation.

	♠ K ♥ 96 ♦ AJT98 ♣ J9764	
♠ JT98 ♥ 432 ♦ K6 ♣ K853	North West East Declarer	♠ A762 ♥ JT87 ♦ Q75 ♣ QT
	♠ Q543 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ 432 ♣ A2	

E-W Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North saw no reason to mess about showing the minors, so she jumped straight to game in the most likely contract. West had the obvious lead of the ♠J, won by East's Ace. Back came a Spade and Declarer could see 9 tricks if she could bring in the Diamonds. She finessed the ♦J, losing to the Queen. The defense cashed their Spades, but Dummy's Diamonds were good. Declarer's 9 tricks were a Spade, three Hearts, four Diamonds and a Club. Somebody goofed, who was it?

Yes, indeed, West was the goofster. We are always told "second hand low, third hand high" but (as usual) there are exceptions and this was one of them. When Declarer led that first round of Diamonds, West must hop up with the King! This alert play makes it impossible for Declarer to bring in the Diamonds for four tricks. If she takes the ♦A on the first round then East will duck the second round of Diamonds ... and if Declarer ducks the first round then the best she can do is to score three Diamonds, which is not enough.

It's a recurring theme. Dummy has AJTxx or AT9xx or some such holding ... Dummy has no side-suit entries ... West has the Queen or the King ... and the winning play by West to play "second hand high" in order to jam Declarer's communications.



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Upcoming tournaments:



**Peoria Fall Sectional
September 16-18, 2011,
AMVETS Post 64, Peoria, IL**