



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 10 – October, 2011

10 pages



October Events



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

- October 3 – open pairs
- October 10 – open pairs
- October 17 – open pairs
- October 24 – club appreciation club championship open pairs
- October 31 – STaC open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

- Saturday, October 1, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, October 3, 99ers only pairs – Heartland
- Tuesday, October 4, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland
- Wednesday, October 5, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, October 6, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, October 8, 11:45AM – club appreciation club open teams – Westminster
- Monday, October 10, 6:15PM – club appreciation club 99ers only teams – Heartland
- Tuesday, October 11, 6:15PM – club appreciation club open teams – Heartland
- Wednesday, October 12, 1:15PM – club appreciation club 99ers & NLMers only teams – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, October 13, 11:45AM – club appreciation club open teams – Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, October 15, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, October 17, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland
- Tuesday, October 18, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland
- Wednesday, October 19, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, October 20, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, October 22, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, October 24, 6:15PM – club appreciation club championship 99ers only pairs – Heartland
- Tuesday, October 25, 6:15PM – club appreciation club championship open pairs – Heartland
- Wednesday, October 26, 1:15PM – club appreciation club championship
99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Thursday, October 27, 11:45AM – club appreciation club championship open pairs – Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, October 29, 11:45AM – club appreciation club championship open pairs – Westminster
- Monday, October 31, 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 8/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

1	3,348.03	Betty Capodice
2	2,672.28	Steve Babin
***	2,557.18	Laura Addison
3	1,851.71	Mike Tomlianovich
4	1,667.44	Zack Freehill
5	1,598.28	Steve Hawthorne
6	1,485.38	Hank Hoffman
***	1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
7	1,329.87	Dewey Gronau
***	1,320.43	Ed Lombard
8	1,284.72	Eunice Patton
9	1,111.72	Stan Gutzman
***	1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
10	1,071.72	Jeanne Strand
11	1,045.09	Ivey Weaver
12	906.10	Jean Barnett
13	806.44	Charlie Morton
14	790.76	Don Strand
***	780.34	Jack Kessler
15	777.99	Glen Beaman
16	753.20	Henrietta Crain
***	741.06	Pearl Harris
17	736.80	Randall Motchan
18	720.15	Ann Schuyler
***	610.73	Martin Compton
19	576.53	Peg Deutsch
20	570.46	Ann Farnsworth
***	567.22	Ruth Wettaw
21	498.12	Dennis Moll
***	481.88	Bev Upp
***	474.92	Nona Wooley
22	461.74	Bob Smith
23	461.12	Dave Freehill
24	422.65	Steve Wulfers
25	393.65	Bev Meginnes
***		deceased

Other players:

***	12,741.55	Dick Benson
	10,637.50	Chris Benson-LeRoy
	4,063.81	Alan Wienman-Morton
	3,914.06	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
	3,613.63	Larry Matheny-Colorado
	3,281.51	Carl Brueckner-Champaign
	3,079.56	Ron Sholes-Springfield
	2,776.92	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
	2,418.24	Georgia Heth-Morton
	2,372.14	Gail Moon-Tennessee
	2,341.11	Liz Zalar-Springfield
	2,322.26	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
	2,195.31	Chuck Zalar-Springfield
	2,147.79	Leah Newell-Springfield
	2,137.13	Paul Lindauer-Varna
	2,025.87	Ray Russ-Henry
	1,987.64	Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria
	1,996.82	Carole Sholes-Springfield
	1,854.17	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
	1,839.53	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
***	1,776.22	John Burdon
	1,517.43	Tim Cull-Springfield
	1,476.89	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
	1,387.97	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
	1,205.59	Jim Moon-Tennessee
	1,034.39	John Maloney-Champaign
	1,011.28	Donna Kaufman-Peoria
	915.02	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
	761.86	Bev Fast-Peoria
	720.79	Phil Kenney-Eureka
	697.32	Camilla Rabjohns
	689.46	Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria
	621.75	Eunice Viktor-Morton
	598.77	Bill Carley-Peoria
	587.56	Carole Miller-Champaign
	539.23	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria

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#1

When declaring a hand and your first line of play fails, it helps to have a backup plan. Here is a hand where the declarer lost an important finesse but found another way to succeed.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-25

Dir E

Vul N/S

♠ 97

♥ J43

♦ AQ7

♣ AK863

♠85

♥9876

♦ K10942

♣Q2



♠J10642

♥52

♦53

♣10954

♠ AKQ3

♥ AKQ10

♦ J86

♣ J7

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

BIDDING: South's strength was concentrated in the major suits but 2NT was the best description. North did the math and bid the slam.

PLAY: West led a heart and declarer quickly saw she needed to attack the club suit. She won the jack of hearts and led a low club to her jack losing to the queen. She won the heart continuation and tested the clubs with the A-K. After receiving the bad news, she cashed her last two heart tricks discarding a diamond from dummy. Needing the diamond finesse, she led to the queen and was happy when that won. Now, she played the ace of diamonds and East was in trouble. Here was the end position:

♠97 ♦A ♣86

♠AKQ3 ♦J

♠J1064

♣C10

When the ace of diamonds was played, East had to discard a spade and keep his club guard so the three of spades became declarer's 12th trick.

#2

New bridge players quickly learn the excitement of the finesse. However, the experienced veterans will always try to avoid them if a better play is available.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-26	♣ AKJ6				
Dir E	♥ AK62				
Vul N/S	♦ Q4				
	♣ QJ5	West	North	East	South
♣82				Pass	1 ♣
♥J1054	♣Q54	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
♦J1093	♥873	Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
♣986	♦K852	Pass			
	♣732				
	♠ 10973				
	♥ Q9				
	♦ A76				
	♣ AK104				

BIDDING: North was a new player who wasn't sure how to continue after uncovering the spade fit. Finally, he just bid what he hoped they could make.

PLAY: West led the jack of diamonds and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. He saw a possible loser in spades and another in the diamond suit. The most obvious play was to take the spade finesse but he hoped to find a better solution. He decided to combine his chances. Although confident West had not under led the king of diamonds, declarer played the queen and then won the ace after East covered. Next, he cashed the ace-king of spades. He was pleased the outstanding spades divided 3-2 but disappointed the queen had not appeared. Now he had to find the opponent with the queen of spade holding three or more clubs. He ran the clubs and poor East could not ruff until the fourth round and that is when declarer discarded his diamond loser.

Those declarers who relied on the spade finesse failed.

#3

There many conventions and agreements available for partnerships. Some are useful and some are abused. The splinter bid is a valuable tool and it was used quite effectively in this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-27	♠ Q9843	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ 7			Pass	2 ♣
Vul N/S	♦ 1092	Pass	2♦*	Pass	2 ♠
	♣ K1085	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
♣	♠75	Pass	5♣	Pass	6 ♠
♥K6432	♥QJ1085				

♦ A74
♣ QJ963



♦ 8653
♣ 72

Pass Pass Pass

*game forcing

♠ AKJ1062
♥ A9
♦ KQJ
♣ A4

BIDDING: North's jump in hearts was a splinter bid showing a singleton or void in hearts and support for spades. Looking for a possible grand slam, South checked on aces but signed off in six when he found one was missing.

PLAY: West led the ace of diamonds and declarer quickly claimed the slam. Many pairs missed this slam and on more than one occasion the North player was heard to say "But I only had five points". Those players failed to recognize the value of their hand.

#4

Many players believe the squeeze play is too complex for them to master. However, in many cases all you have to do is cash your winners. This hand is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-28
Dir E
Vul E/W

♠ K8
♥ KJ985
♦ AJ62
♣ 64

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ QJ109532
♥ 432
♦ 109
♣ J

♠ 74
♥ Q107
♦ Q73
♣ 109732

♠ A6
♥ A6
♦ K854
♣ AKQ85

*transfer

BIDDING: North transferred to hearts and then jumped to 4NT. This sequence showed invitational values for slam in hearts or NT. South loved his strong club suit and accepted.

PLAY: West led the queen of spades won by declarer's ace. At trick two, declarer played the ace and another heart to the jack losing to the queen. East returned a spade to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the king of hearts pitching a diamond from his hand and was relieved to see the hearts divide 3-3. He now had 11 tricks: 2 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 3 clubs. It appeared he now either needed the clubs to be kind to him or find the queen of diamonds. But, before attacking either minor suit, he cashed dummy's other two hearts discarding another diamond and a club. East was in trouble; he discarded a club on the fourth round of hearts and was finished by the last one. He finally discarded a low diamond. Declarer played the top clubs followed by the king-ace of

diamonds and dummy's diamond jack was declarer's twelfth trick.

Those who fell back on the diamond finesse complained of bad luck when both red queens were off-side.



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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2011/09/08	70.00%	Betty Capodice & Steve Babin
2011/09/03	74.21%	Eunice Patton & Steve Babin
2011/08/24	72.78%	Sallie Boge & Stevie Joslin(NLMers)
2011/08/18	74.07%	Ray Russ & Steve Babin
2011/08/03	72.78%	JoAnn Schroeder & Sallie Boge(NLMers)
2011/08/01	70.14%	Dorothy Berg & Balu Nair(99ers)
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

#37 - THE TRUMP COUP

This week's deal contains a little bit of magic whereby a "certain" trump loser evaporates into thin air thanks to some well-timed Declarer play.

	♠ T9 ♥ AQJ ♦ A543 ♣ AQ52	
♠ 2 ♥ T83 ♦ JT96 ♣ JT984	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ K765 ♥ 9654 ♦ Q72 ♣ K7
	♠ AQJ843 ♥ K72 ♦ K8 ♣ 63	

Against your 6♣ contract West leads the ♣J. You finesse the Queen but that loses to the King and East returns a Club to Dummy's Ace. It was a fine slam but it got worse when that Club finesse lost. Now you must pick up the trump suit for no losers. You run the ♠T and it holds. You say a silent "Yippee!" but that quickly changes to "Rats!" when you repeat the finesse and West shows out. How will you overcome this setback?

East still has ♠K7 but there are no Spades left in Dummy with which to repeat the finesse. That might seem like a certain trump loser but you have a resource, it's known as a Trump Coup. For this to work you must shorten your trumps down

to two (the same length as East) and also make sure that you win the 11th trick in Dummy. If you can do that, then when you lead from Dummy at Trick 12, East will be forced to ruff in front of you, thereby losing his "sure" trump trick.

So, after the second trump finesse wins, the play goes: ♦K; ♦A; Diamond ruff; over to Dummy's ♥Q; Club ruff; back to Dummy's ♥J. The ♥A is now cashed and at Trick 12 Dummy leads a Club (or

Diamond) and East is forced to ruff in front of you. Great stuff! Be sure to realize that you needed *both* those ruffs in your hand, if you had not shortened your trumps to the right length then there would have been no Trump Coup.

#38 - THE ANTI-BATH COUP

	♠ KJT ♥ 865 ♦ 72 ♣ AQT96	
♠ 962 ♥ KQT94 ♦ JT8 ♣ 42	North West East Declarer	♠ 8743 ♥ 73 ♦ KQ953 ♣ K3
	♠ AQ5 ♥ AJ2 ♦ A64 ♣ J875	

The Bath Coup is well known by now:

	865	
KQT94		73
	AJ2	

West leads the King and Declarer craftily ducks. Now if West continues he gives Declarer a second trick in the suit. The rule for East here, when holding Jxx, is to *encourage* with his higher spot card, hopefully that agreement will save West from the ignominy of the Bath Coup.

However, in the diagram above, Declarer pulled off what has been termed as the “Anti-Bath Coup”. Against 3NT, West led the ♥K and Declarer could have ducked this trick in order to

lure West into a Bath Coup. But Declarer could see that a Diamond shift might be fatal, so in order to muddy the waters he played the ♥J on the first trick! Our (gullible) West assumed that Declarer had started with ♥AJ doubleton and continued Hearts, won by Declarer’s Ace. The Club finesse was lost, but East was out of Hearts and Declarer had 9 tricks. Of course, a Diamond shift at Trick 2 beats the contract, but Declarer’s clever false card diverted West from the winning play.

Yes, West erred grievously! After that first Heart trick (King, Five, Three, Jack), he should have smelled a rat. Where was the Two? East would not play the Three from 732, instead he would play his lowest card saying “I don’t have the Jack!” So, an alert West (and one who trusted his Partner to signal correctly) could have figured out that Declarer had false-carded. But, in the heat of battle, such clues can be missed!

#39 - THE MERRIMAC COUP

Historians of the Spanish-American War will have no difficulty figuring out how this week’s coup got its exotic name. For the rest of us there is Google.

	♠ A6 ♥ 754 ♦ 763 ♣ KQT96	
♠ 432 ♥ QT82 ♦ 954 ♣ 872	North West East Declarer	♠ KJT9 ♥ AJ3 ♦ JT8 ♣ A54
	♠ Q875 ♥ K96 ♦ AKQ2 ♣ J3	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Against 3NT, West leads his 4th best Heart, and routine defense by East is to win the Ace and return the Jack. Declarer’s King wins that and Clubs are played. East can take his ♣A when he likes, West gets a couple of Hearts, but that is all there is for the defense. 9 tricks for Declarer.

Let’s replay the hand, this time with a wide-awake East at the table. He can see those ominous Clubs in Dummy and must knock out the ♠A before Declarer can set up the Clubs. That’s right, a Spade shift is required at Trick 2. But shifting

to the ♠J does not get the job done. Declarer will hop up with her Queen, saving Dummy’s ♠A entry

for later. What is needed is the spectacular shift to the ♠K, that *does* knock out Dummy's entry (if the ♠K is ducked then East simply continues with another Spade). Nicely done! East's sacrifice of the ♠K (the Merrimac Coup) shuts out the Clubs and is the only way to set the contract.

Of course, after the ♠A has been dislodged, East must keep up the good work by ducking one round of Clubs, in order to complete the job of shutting out the Club suit. Why not duck a second round in case Declarer started with three Clubs? West will help out by giving a count signal, playing the ♣2 on the first round. This "low-high" tells East that West started with an *odd* number of Clubs and therefore that Declarer does *not* have three. Ducking the second Club would be fatal as it happens, allowing Declarer to scamper home with two Spades, a Heart, four Diamonds and two Clubs.

#40 - THE SCISSORS COUP

This week's deal features the Scissors Coup, so-called because it cuts communications between the two defenders.

	♠ J95 ♥ AKJ7 ♦ 43 ♣ AT87	
♠ A4 ♥ T ♦ AJT65 ♣ KQJ52	North	♠ 2 ♥ 8643 ♦ KQ987 ♣ 643
	West East	
	Declarer	
	♠KQT8763 ♥ Q952 ♦ 2 ♣ 9	

Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	4♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East's 4♦ was preemptive, showing long Diamonds and not much else.

As West, what's your opening lead? It would be reasonable to lead ♠K, attempting to set up a Club trick while you still have the ♠A entry. That doesn't work on the actual deal because of Declarer's Club singleton. A more promising plan might be to lead the singleton Heart, later winning the ♠A,

then *underleading* the ♦A to East's hoped-for ♦K, and getting a Heart ruff for down one. As you can see, that plan is the winner. Well, not quite, because there is a clever counter-measure. How can Declarer deprive West of his ruff?

Enter the Scissors Coup. Declarer wins the Heart lead in Dummy, and before touching trumps she cashes ♣A and leads another Club, *pitching a Diamond* when East plays low. By this maneuver Declarer trades a Diamond loser for a Club loser, in the process thwarting West in his plan to reach East with the ♦K. Now, with the defensive communications snipped, Declarer loses only the ♠A and a Club (but there is no Diamond loser and no Heart ruff).

Post Script: As West you no doubt found that well-thought-out Heart opening lead. Then as Declarer you made a clever play to bring home the 5♠ contract. Next, imagine that you hold the East cards, but with the ♣6 replaced by the ♣J. Now, after Dummy's ♣A has been cashed, when a second Club is played, we are quite confident that you would alertly hop up with that ♣J, foiling the Scissors Coup. Nice play!



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Upcoming tournaments:



**Bloomington-Normal Sectional
January 20-22, 2012
UAW 2488
Bloomington, IL**