



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 11 – November, 2011

10 pages



## November Events



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

November 7 – open pairs

November 14 – open pairs

November 21 – open pairs

November 28 – open pairs

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

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule:**

Tuesday, November 1, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, November 2, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, November 2, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

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

Thursday, November 3, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Friday, November 4, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Saturday, November 5, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Westminster

Sunday, November 6, 1:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

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

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

Wednesday, November 9, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

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

Saturday, November 12, NO GAME - NAP district final in Springfield

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

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

Wednesday, November 16, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 17, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

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

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

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

Wednesday, November 23, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

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

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

Monday, November 28, 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

Wednesday, November 30, 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](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 10/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1    **3,357.96 Betty Capodice**
- 2    **2,686.60 Steve Babin**
- \*\*\* **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3    **1,856.00 Mike Tomlianovich**
- 4    **1,689.17 Zack Freehill**
- 5    **1,616.61 Steve Hawthorne**
- 6    **1,503.51 Hank Hoffman**
- \*\*\* **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- 7    **1,341.30 Dewey Gronau**
- \*\*\* **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 8    **1,294.85 Eunice Patton**
- 9    **1,115.80 Stan Gutzman**
- \*\*\* **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 10   **1,074.41 Jeanne Strand**
- 11   **1,046.13 Ivey Weaver**
- 12    **910.17 Jean Barnett**
- 13    **820.30 Charlie Morton**
- 14    **791.96 Don Strand**
- 15    **780.60 Glen Beaman**
- \*\*\* **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- 16    **753.20 Henrietta Crain**
- 17    **742.11 Randall Motchan**
- \*\*\* **741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 18    **729.56 Ann Schuyler**
- \*\*\* **610.73 Martin Compton**
- 19    **584.16 Peg Deutsch**
- 20    **570.46 Ann Farnsworth**
- \*\*\* **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 21    **499.37 Dennis Moll**
- \*\*\* **481.88 Bev Upp**
- \*\*\* **474.92 Nona Wooley**
- 22    **464.39 Dave Freehill**
- 23    **461.74 Bob Smith**
- 24    **426.60 Steve Wulfers**
- 25    **394.57 Bev Meginnes**
- \*\*\* **deceased**

**Other players:**

- \*\*\* **12,741.55 Dick Benson**
- 10,639.96 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,926.64 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,644.67 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- 3,287.52 Carl Brueckner-Champaign**
- 3,081.69 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,784.87 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,419.44 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,372.14 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,348.08 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,325.14 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,204.82 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,157.02 Leah Newell- Springfield**
- 2,139.22 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,088.76 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 2,002.14 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 1,998.11 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 1,861.88 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- 1,842.51 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- \*\*\* **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,518.86 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,484.31 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,3899.34 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,205.59 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- 1,041.20 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 1,017.49 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 770.22 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 724.00 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 709.97 Camilla Rabjohns**
- 691.14 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria**
- 621.75 Eunice Viktor-Morton**
- 604.95 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 587.56 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 554.37 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**

# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

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#1

A strong declarer will resort to a finesse only when presented with no other better option. This declarer found a way to avoid the guess for a missing queen.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-29	♠ A654				
Dir N	♥ A10				
Vul E/W	♦ KJ1082	West	North	East	South
	♣ 92		1♦	Pass	1♥
♠K10832		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
♥32	♠QJ97	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
♦64	♥865	Pass	3♥	Pass	6♥
♣J743	♦Q75	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣K86				
	♠				
	♥KQJ974				
	♦A93				
	♣AQ105				

\*fourth suit forcing

**BIDDING:** South's rebid of 2♣ was artificial and game forcing. North rebid diamonds and then raised hearts after South showed a strong suit. Expecting a good diamond suit in dummy, South confidently bid the slam.

**PLAY:** West led the unbid suit but the club lead turned out to be good for declarer. With twelve tricks available, most declarers simply drew trumps and took the diamond finesse. They lost to the queen but had their twelve tricks. At one table, declarer found a better line. She won the club, cashed the other high club, and trumped a third one in dummy. Then it was a spade ruff back to her hand followed by the last club. She trumped it in dummy and returned to her hand with the ace of diamonds. She then had only to draw trumps and discard a diamond on dummy's ace of spades.

This hand was well bid and well played. Unfortunately, I was East at the "other" table and no other N/S pair made the over trick so we received a zero.

#2

The honor cards receive most of the headlines but in this hand the lowly deuce and eight played important roles.

**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)**

#11-30	♠ J42				
Dir N	♥ J109				
Vul E/W	♦ AQ3	West	North	East	South
	♣ K1085		Pass	1♦	1♠
♠					
♥K7643	♠K765	DBL*	2♠	Pass	3♣
♦J10874	□	3♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
♣743	♥2	Pass			
	♦K9652				
	♣AQ6				
	♠ AQ10983				
	♥ AQ85				
	♦				
	♣ J92				

\*negative

**BIDDING:** With diamonds bid on his left, North discounted his queen in that suit and made a simple raise. However, on the next round he did accept his partner's help suit game try in clubs. The vulnerability kept E-W from competing higher in diamonds.

**PLAY:** West led the jack of diamonds and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. The auction made it likely the heart king was off-side and placed East with the missing club honors and the king of spades. Declarer won the ace of diamonds discarding a low heart. He then led the jack of spade and was disappointed when West discarded a diamond. Declarer continued with a spade to his eight. He needed an entry to dummy in order to repeat the spade finesse and East was determined to prevent it. Declarer led the jack of clubs overtaking with the king. Forced to win, East exited with his heart. Declarer won with the ace and played the nine of clubs overtaking with dummy's ten. Again, East had to win and with no good exit finally selected the king of diamonds. South ruffed and led the deuce of clubs to dummy's eight. He was now able to lead a third spade and capture East's king. Declarer still had one trump in his hand and merely had to concede a trick to the king of hearts.

#3

While it is usually correct to pull trumps as soon as possible, some hands require attending to other business first.

**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)**

#11-31	♠ AK98				
Dir E	♥ 962				
Vul E/W	♦ AQ3	West	North	East	South
	♣ K65			Pass	2♥
♠654					
♥KJ5	♠QJ3	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
♦85	□	Pass			
♣AQ742	♥8				
	♦J9764				
	♣J1098				

♠ 1072  
 ♥ AQ10743  
 ♦ K102  
 ♣ 3

**BIDDING:** After South's weak-two heart bid, North had an easy raise to game.

**PLAY:** With no attractive lead, West finally chose the six of spades. Declarer counted four possible losers: 1 spade, 2 hearts, and 1 club. The heart play could come later because he first needed to try to eliminate the spade loser. He won the ace in dummy and entered his hand with a diamond. Next he led a low club toward dummy and was delighted to see West win the ace. Declarer won the spade continuation with the king followed by the king of clubs discarding the spade loser. Next he led the nine of hearts losing to the jack. He won the club continuation and lost only one more trick to the king of hearts.

It's true it was unlucky to find both heart honors off-side, but those declarers who attacked trump first were very disappointed.

#4

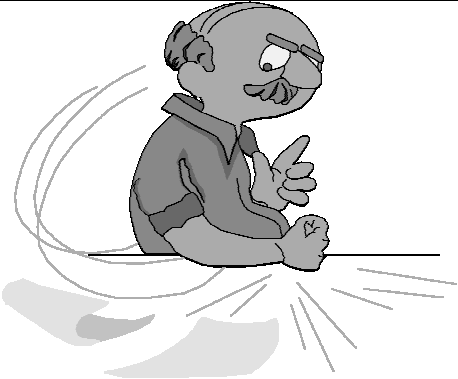
Slam bidding can be difficult but sometimes it's just a matter of visualizing twelve tricks. This is a very easy slam to bid.

**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)**

#11-32	♠ 9					
Dir E	♥ A854					
Vul E/W	♦ AK6					
	♣ AQ1065					
♠KJ1076		♠AQ543	West	North	East	South
♥K762	□	♥J3			Pass	2♦
♦83		♦54	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
♣82		♣9743	Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
	♠ 82		Pass			
	♥ Q109					
	♦ QJ10972					
	♣ KJ					

**BIDDING:** After South's weak-two diamond bid, North used 2NT to ask for an outside ace or king. North knew that his partner's club response showed the king and simply bid the slam.

**PLAY:** West led a spade and this was declarer's only loser. He won the diamond shift, drew trumps, and discarded his two losing hearts and low spade on the good clubs. What was so surprising is that in a 14 table game, only two pairs bid this slam. Perhaps people get too involved in counting points when they should be counting 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!!**

**Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2011 only**  
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**Eastland Medical Plaza, 1505 Eastland Drive, Bloomington**

<b>2011/10/24</b>	<b>71.88%</b>	<b>Gaye Hoselton &amp; Calvin Wu(99ers)</b>
<b>2011/09/08</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Betty Capodice &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2011/09/03</b>	<b>74.21%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2011/08/24</b>	<b>72.78%</b>	<b>Sallie Boge &amp; Stevie Joslin(NLMers)</b>
<b>2011/08/18</b>	<b>74.07%</b>	<b>Ray Russ &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2011/08/03</b>	<b>72.78%</b>	<b>JoAnn Schroeder &amp; Sallie Boge(NLMers)</b>
<b>2011/08/01</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Dorothy Berg &amp; Balu Nair(99ers)</b>
<b>2011/07/28</b>	<b>70.84%</b>	<b>Hank Hoffman &amp; Mike Tomlianovich</b>
<b>2011/07/25</b>	<b>72.06%</b>	<b>Lynn Steffen &amp; Lori Moore(99ers)</b>
<b>2011/07/14</b>	<b>71.43%</b>	<b>Steve Hawthorne &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2011/06/13</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Mary Tweedie &amp; Lori Moore(99ers)</b>
<b>2011/05/16</b>	<b>73.89%</b>	<b>Joyce Werner &amp; Dorothy Berg(99ers)</b>
<b>2011/05/12</b>	<b>73.81%</b>	<b>Lane O'Connor &amp; Jerry Oswald</b>

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

### #41 - THE DEVIL'S COUP

You could play a lifetime of bridge without pulling off a Devil's Coup, but it's worth a look purely for its entertainment value.

	♠ AT4 ♥ Q954 ♦ KJ96 ♣ A7	
♠ J73 ♥ A872 ♦ T82 ♣ Q54	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>Declarer</i>	♠ Q8 ♥ JT63 ♦ 753 ♣ J632
	♠ K9652 ♥ K ♦ AQ4 ♣ KT98	

It looks like Partner has overbid again because you find yourself in the dreadful contract of 6♠. West cashes the ♥A at Trick 1 and now the success of your slam depends upon losing no trump tricks, missing QJ873. The chances of one defender holding QJ doubleton are pretty remote (8%, actually) and you can do better by *not* drawing trumps.

At Trick 2, you ruff the Heart continuation, cash three Diamonds (ending in Dummy), ruff another Heart, cash ♠A and ♠K, and ruff a Club, reaching this position, with the lead in Dummy:

	♠ AT ♥ Q ♦ 9 ♣	
♠ J73 ♥ 7 ♦		♠ Q8 ♥ J ♦

Do you see how to win the rest of the Dummy's ♥Q (even though it is a defense is toast. *If West ruffs low* then last two tricks with the ♠A and ♠K ... *if* and there is now a finesse position indeed!

♣	♣ J
♠ K96	
♥	
♦	
♣ T	

tricks? Sure you do! You ruff winner!) and, when the ♠T is led, the Dummy overruffs and you score the *West ruffs high* then Dummy overruffs against East's Queen! Devilish

To bring off this small miracle, West's distribution had to be precisely 3=4=3=3 or 3=5=3=2 and he had to hold one of the missing Spade honors. We don't know if that offers better odds than the aforementioned 8%, but we are sure that bringing off the Devil's Coup is so much more fun!

### #42 - THE STRIPEASE COUP

	♠ AQ765 ♥ 53 ♦ Q4 ♣ 9854	
♠ JT943 ♥ KQT4 ♦ 65 ♣ A3	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 82 ♥ 9876 ♦ JT982 ♣ K7
	♠ K ♥ AJ2 ♦ AK73 ♣ QJT62	

We round out our series on bridge coups with a personal favorite.

After West has overcalled in Spades, South finds herself in 5♣, a contract which appears doomed when West's opening lead is the ♥K. Declarer cannot play on trumps immediately because the defense has three cashing tricks ... she cannot pitch her two Heart losers on the top Spades because East will ruff the third round ... and she cannot pitch Dummy's Heart loser on the Diamonds because West will ruff the third round.

But Declarer has a resource, let the striptease commence! Declarer's ♥A wins the first trick, the ♠K is unblocked, then over to Dummy's ♦Q. The ♠A is cashed (Declarer pitching a Heart, of course), and now, when Dummy's ♠Q is played, East must ruff to prevent another Heart pitch. He cannot ruff high (Declarer would pitch the Heart anyway) so he ruffs low and is overruffed. Next, Declarer plays his high Diamonds and this time it is West who is forced to ruff in order to prevent the Heart pitch. West must also ruff low and is overruffed by Dummy.

After those two low ruffs, both defenders have bared down to a singleton trump honor, so Declarer can lead a trump and enjoy the sight of the Ace and King tumbling down on the same trick! This was actually a double Striptease Coup as both defenders were divested of their protective small trump.

### #43 - THRUST AND PARRY

East made a couple of fine defensive plays on this deal, but Declarer parried with some good plays of her own, and eventually prevailed.

	♠ 652 ♥ Q543 ♦ 42 ♣ QJT3	
♠ KQJT93 ♥ 762 ♦ 5 ♣ 842	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ A98 ♦ T9876 ♣ A976



♠ A87
♥ KJT
♦ AKQJ3
♣ K5

N-S Vulnerable

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

West's 2♠ was preemptive, showing a 6-card suit and a weak hand. West leads the ♠K, and Declarer ducks the first round, just in case West was being frisky and bid 2♠ on a 5-card suit. The purpose of that "hold-up play" is to make sure that East is out of Spades when he later gains the lead.

Declarer wins the second round of Spades (East pitches a Club), and must flush out East's Aces in order to reach 9 tricks. She leads the ♠K, but East cleverly ducks that, making his own hold-up play in order to shut out Dummy's Club suit. Declarer persists with Clubs and East wins the second round, then exits with a Diamond. Next comes the ♥K, but again East holds up his Ace, and holds up yet again when Declarer plays the ♥J! East has succeeded in keeping Declarer from reaching Dummy, but only temporarily. Declarer leads another Heart, which East must win. Again, East exits with a Diamond. Declarer cashes the remaining Diamond winners and loses the fifth round to East. East's remaining card is a Club and that gives Declarer her 9<sup>th</sup> trick. It took a while, but finally, at Trick 13, Declarer reaches Dummy!

Post Script: If Declarer had held three Clubs instead of just two, East would have wanted to duck the second Club and win the third round. How did East know to win the second round instead? His helpful Partner gave him a *count signal*, playing the *Two* on the first round. By playing a *low* Club West showed an *odd* number ... if West had held a doubleton, he would have played his *high* Club to show an *even* number. Nice defense by E-W, albeit in a losing cause.

#### #44 - CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

If it's not too late already, try looking at just the N-S hands and decide how you are going to play that Spade suit. Where's the lady?

♠ A873		
♥ QT9		
♦ 985		
♣ K32		
♠ 4	North	♠ Q65
♥ 876542		♥ AKJ
♦ QJT	West	♦ 72
♣ T65	East	♣ AJ987
	Declarer	
♠ KJT92		
♥ 3		
♦ AK643		
♣ Q4		

E-W Vulnerable

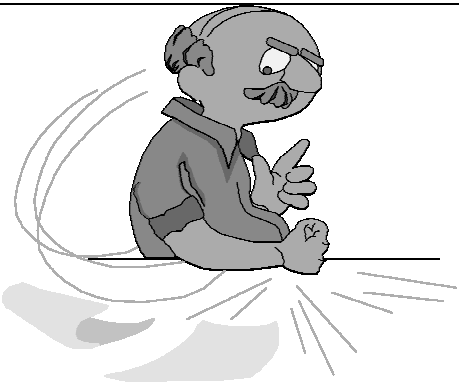
South	West	North	East
			1NT
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

That 1NT opening showed 15-17 HCP, after which the auction inches its way up to 4♠. West leads the ♦Q, which is won by your Ace. You have one loser in each of the side-suits, so to make your contract you must avoid losing a trump trick.

In the play of the Spades you could choose to finesse against West, or to finesse against East, or to play "for the drop" (hoping that the suit is 2-2 or the ♠Q is singleton). The

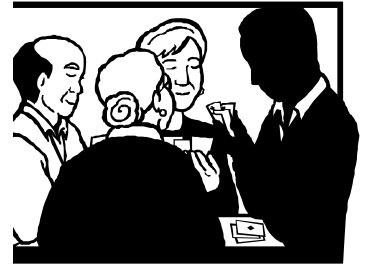
general rule, when holding a 9-card fit, is to play for the drop, all things being equal that is about a 58% chance.

But why settle for 58% when you can have 100%? Yes, it's time for some counting. N-S have a combined 22 HCP, that leaves E-W with 18. West has already played the ♦Q, leaving precisely 15 or 16 HCP in the East hand. As East has already advertised 15-17 he must have all the missing high cards with the possible exception of one of the missing Jacks. So at Trick 2 you lead a Spade to Dummy's Ace and then, when East plays low on the second round, you finesse the Jack with complete confidence. That's 10 tricks for those who count, but only 9 for the rule-followers.



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## **Upcoming tournaments:**



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