



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 1 – January, 2012

10 pages



January Events



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

January 2 – open pairs

January 9 – open pairs

January 16 – open pairs

January 23 – open pairs

January 30 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, January 2, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 3, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 4, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 5, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, January 9, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 10, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 11, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 12, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 14, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, January 16, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 17, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 18, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 19, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 21, NO GAME – TOURNAMENT – UAW 2488

Monday, January 23, 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 24, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, January 25, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 26, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 28, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, January 30, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, January 31, 6:15PM – open 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 11/1/2011 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

1	3,365.96	Betty Capodice
2	2,696.83	Steve Babin
	*** 2,557.18	Laura Addison
3	1,857.30	Mike Tomlianovich
4	1,707.64	Zack Freehill
5	1,638.51	Steve Hawthorne
6	1,513.74	Hank Hoffman
	*** 1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
7	1,351.59	Dewey Gronau
	*** 1,320.43	Ed Lombard
8	1,294.97	Eunice Patton
9	1,120.10	Stan Gutzman
	*** 1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
10	1,076.09	Jeanne Strand
11	1,047.63	Ivey Weaver
12	913.86	Jean Barnett
13	833.40	Charlie Morton
14	791.90	Don Strand
15	783.15	Glen Beaman
	*** 780.34	Jack Kessler
16	754.85	Henrietta Crain
17	753.04	Ann Schuyler
18	746.55	Randall Motchan
	*** 741.06	Pearl Harris
	*** 610.73	Martin Compton
19	590.75	Peg Deutsch
20	570.46	Ann Farnsworth
	*** 567.22	Ruth Wettaw
21	519.49	Dennis Moll
	*** 481.88	Bev Upp
	*** 474.92	Nona Wooley
22	467.71	Dave Freehill
23	461.74	Bob Smith
24	429.97	Steve Wulfers
25	395.35	Bev Meginnes
	***	deceased

Other players:

*** 12,741.55	Dick Benson
10,661.33	Chris Benson-LeRoy
4,073.45	Alan Wienman-Morton
3,923.94	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
3,666.12	Larry Matheny-Colorado
3,290.84	Carl Brueckner-Champaign
3,093.74	Ron Sholes-Springfield
2,790.60	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
2,419.84	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,384.45	Gail Moon-Tennessee
2,362.82	Liz Zalar-Springfield
2,329.95	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
2,207.47	Chuck Zalar-Springfield
2,163.97	Leah Newell- Springfield
2,161.18	Paul Lindauer-Varna
2,100.07	Ray Russ-Henry
2,006.87	Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria
2,009.76	Carole Sholes-Springfield
1,862.88	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
1,847.42	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
*** 1,776.22	John Burdon
1,522.53	Tim Cull-Springfield
1,485.28	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
1,400.20	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,217.90	Jim Moon-Tennessee
1,046.91	John Maloney-Champaign
1,020.22	Donna Kaufman-Peoria
916.41	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
773.75	Bev Fast-Peoria
725.80	Phil Kenney-Eureka
735.14	Camilla Rabjohns
691.14	Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria
621.75	Eunice Viktor-Morton
611.37	Bill Carley-Peoria
587.56	Carole Miller-Champaign
558.41	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria

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#1

Matchpoint events are difficult and usually won by players who fight and scratch for every possible trick. Here is a hand where the play for an overtrick was obscure but possible.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-37 ♣ AJ32
 Dir E ♥ A1075
 Vul E-W ♦ 83
 ♣ 976

♠ 98
 ♥ J42
 ♦ KQJ107
 ♣ 5
 ♣ K8



♠ 104
 ♥ 9863
 ♦ A964
 ♣ QJ5

♠ KQ1065
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A10432

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♣
2♦	3♦	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

BIDDING: North's 3♦ bid showed a limit raise of spades and South continued to game.


PLAY: West led the king of diamonds and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. It appeared he had to lose one diamond and two clubs. Since this was a pairs event, he looked for an overtrick. He ruffed the second diamond, played the king of spades followed by the KQ of hearts. He then cashed the ace of clubs (important) and went to the ace of spades drawing trumps. Now he cashed the ace of hearts discarding a club and was delighted to see the jack fall. He discarded another club on the ten of hearts and then led a low club. West won the king but with no more clubs, had to lead a diamond allowing declarer to discard dummy's last club and ruff in his hand. Making five was a good matchpoint result.

Note the early play of the ace of clubs made it more difficult for West to see the end-play coming and unblock the king.

#2

Every now and then I run into a crazy hand. Here is one I watched via on-line bridge and I couldn't believe the auction.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-38	♠ AKJ74				
Dir W	♥				
Vul E-W	♦ AQJ3	West	North	East	South
	♣ AK86	1 ♠	DBL	3 ♥	Pass
♣Q10952		3 ♠	DBL	4 ♥	5 ♦
♥KQ6		Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
♦K		Pass			
♣Q1032					
	♣83				
	♥J109875432				
	♦10				
	♣9				
	♠ 6				
	♥ A				
	♦ 9876542				
	♣ J754				

BIDDING: North couldn't believe he saw a spade bid on his right but with such a huge hand he made a takeout double. East held NINE hearts with very little else and made a weak jump bid. South held seven diamonds but decided to stay out of the fray. For some reason West rebid spades even though he held great heart support. North doubled again and South finally came alive. Poor frustrated North didn't know who to believe but carried on to the slam.


PLAY: West led the king of hearts and South discarded a club from dummy. At trick two declarer played a diamond and was delighted to see the king appear on his left. With 12 tricks a certainly, declarer turned his attention to the overtrick. He felt confident he could take the spade finesse in order to discard two clubs from his hand but he saw a better solution. He cashed the ace-king of clubs followed by the rest of his diamonds. In the 3-card ending, West could not protect the black queens and soon gave up.

I exited that game and decided to find another table that might be a little less exciting.

#3

The mathematical aspect of bridge frightens some players but it is often necessary for them to count to no higher than thirteen. This hand illustrates how easy counting can be.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-39	♠ 9432	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ AK2			3 ♦	3 ♠
Vul None	♦ A	Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♣
	♣ J10964	Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
♣K65		Pass			
♥QJ8764					
♦ 753					
	♣7				
	♥105				
	♦KQJ10962				

♣7

♣Q53

♠ AQJ108
 ♥ 93
 ♦ 84
 ♣ AK82

BIDDING: North's 4♦ bid showed a good spade raise. South cue bid clubs and North jumped to the slam. North realized his partner must have good spades to be interested in slam when missing so many red suit honors.

PLAY: West led the three of diamonds and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. It was likely the spade finesse would lose so he needed to bring in the club suit. After winning the ace of diamonds, declarer led a low spade to the queen and king. West returned a heart won by the ace. Declarer drew trumps followed by the king of hearts and a third heart ruffed with the ten. A count showed that East started with 1 spade, 2 hearts, 7 diamonds, and therefore 3 clubs. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs followed by a diamond ruff in dummy. He now passed the jack of clubs and wrapped up the contract.

#4

The play to the first trick is often very important. This hand shows that a moment of thought can prevent a costly mistake.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-40
 Dir N
 Vul None

♠ 843
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ QJ65
 ♣ Q1053

♠KQ10
 ♥K53
 ♦A10842
 ♣J6



♠752
 ♥AJ102
 ♦7
 ♣98742

♠ AJ96
 ♥ 9876
 ♦ K93
 ♣ AK

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

BIDDING: South's 1NT opened and closed the auction.

PLAY: West led the four of diamonds and declarer stopped to count his tricks. He needed to get to dummy to cash the queen of clubs but entries were few. He started to win the trick cheaply with the nine but stopped to think it through. Then he saw that if he won the first diamond with the nine, the opponents could allow the king to win and capture the third round. That meant no entry to dummy's clubs. To avoid this problem, he won the first diamond with the king. Next he unblocked the ace-king of clubs and was delighted to see the jack drop. He followed with a low diamond to the queen

with East discarding a spade. He cashed the queen-ten of clubs discarding a spade and a heart and had his seven tricks: 1 spade, 2 diamonds, and 4 clubs.

Note that if declarer had won the first trick with the nine of diamonds, careful defense would defeat the contract.

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2011/12/08	75.00%	Jeff Furler & Jerry Oswald
2011/12/07	72.92%	Joyce Clay & JoAnn Schroeder(NLMers)
2011/12/03	72.62%	Jeff Furler & Hank Hoffman
2011/11/16	77.78%	Cindy Moore & Lori Moore(NLMers)
2011/11/14	72.22%	Patty & Rodger Paul(99ers)
2011/10/09	70.56%	JoAnn Schroeder & Sallie Boge(NLMers)
2011/10/24	71.88%	Gaye Hoselton & Calvin Wu(99ers)
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

#49 - MANAGING THE ENTRIES

This week's hand comes from a duplicate bridge event, where the method of scoring generously rewards making overtricks.

South	West
1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass

Can you make 10 tricks after a low Diamond lead, and that the enough clues, now

Our Declarer Diamond lead, playing low from the second Club and persevered with Diamonds. Declarer correctly ducked and took the next Diamond, hoping that the defender with the ♥A was not the one with the 13th Diamond. Then Declarer led to the ♥Q but that rascally West ducked the trick! This fine play meant that Declarer could not score a second Heart trick ... with ♣T97 on the board and ♣853 in hand there was only one entry back to hand when two were needed (one to knock out the ♥A, the other to get back to the Heart winner). Making only 9 tricks.

West made a good play by ducking the Heart but Declarer did not have to give him a chance to shine. On the first two rounds of Clubs, Declarer should play Dummy's ♣9 and ♣T. Now, with ♣764 on the board and ♣853 in hand, there are two entries to hand, and also one back to the board later, with which to reach the ♠AK. Careful management of the entries nullifies West's clever duck and brings in that valuable overtrick.

	♠ AKT9 ♥ Q ♦ 987 ♣ T9764	
♠ Q832 ♥ AT75 ♦ T43 ♣ KQ	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ J7654 ♥ 832 ♦ KJ52 ♣ J
	♠ ♥ KJ964 ♦ AQ6 ♣ A8532	

E-W Vulnerable

North	East
1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass
Pass	Pass

tricks after a low Diamond lead? Our we'll also say that West is a slippery play in Clubs is crucial. Alright, that's please make 10 tricks.

managed only 9 tricks. He won the cashed the ♣A and conceded a Club, board both times. West won the

#50 - RIGHT-SIDING THE CONTRACT

	♠ 53 ♥ 3 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ98432	
♠ AQJ962 ♥ JT2 ♦ K532 ♣	North West East Declarer	♠ T87 ♥ 98764 ♦ T87 ♣ 76
	♠ K4 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ AQJ ♣ KJT5	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
	1♠	3♣	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

As can be seen, 6♣ (played from the North side) is down one in a hurry after East's opening Spade lead. So South sensibly bid 6NT to "right-side" the contract, putting West on lead and protecting the ♠K. Against 6NT, West leads the ♥J. Can you make 12 tricks?

Declarer can count only 11 top tricks and can be sure (from the bidding) that the ♦K and ♠A are both with West. Does that mean that 6NT is destined to fail? Actually, no, because Declarer can organize an end-play. Declarer wins the opening Heart lead, cashes the other Heart winners and rattles off 7 Clubs. West's last three cards will presumably be ♠A and ♦K5, and Declarer will come down to ♠K and ♦AQ. Now, West is thrown in with a Spade and must lead a Diamond, giving Declarer her 12th trick. That pretty ending is known as a Strip Squeeze.

Post Script: West might have thwarted the squeeze by coming down to ♠AQ and ♦K, but an astute Declarer will suspect that West has the ♠Q for his opening bid and will play to drop the ♦K instead of trying the Spade throw-in. A more thoughtful West will bare the ♦K early in his discards, and will also pitch away the ♠Q and ♠J, coming down to the fiendishly devious ♠A6 and ♦K! Nobody would fault Declarer for now assuming that West started life with 5=3=5=0 distribution, and for misguessing the end-game as a result. Wicked defense, Mr West!

#51 - SIDE-SUITS FIRST

In our first bridge lesson we are taught to draw the defenders' trumps early in the play, lest they start ruffing our winners. We then spend the rest of our lives discovering (sometimes painfully) that there are exceptions to this rule.

	♠ J74 ♥ A9765 ♦ 92 ♣ AKJ	
♠ Q532 ♥ K832 ♦ Q4 ♣ QT2	North West East Declarer	♠ AKT986 ♥ Q4 ♦ KT753 ♣
	♠ ♥ JT ♦ AJ86 ♣ 9876543	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♥	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	4♠
5♣	Dbl	All Pass	

With extreme distribution around the table (or at least in the S-E corner), it's not unusual for the bidding to keep on going until someone finally says "Enough already, I double you!" Here, West questions South's ability to make 11 tricks in Clubs.

After ruffing the opening Spade lead, one (faulty) plan would be to ruff a couple of Diamonds, but that would set up a natural trump trick for the defense (two, as it happens, because the suit splits 3-0). The winning plan is to set up the Hearts, and some trumps must be kept in reserve in order to provide Dummy entries

later in the play. It's OK to play a trump to the Ace at Trick 2, and then the play continues: Spade ruff; ♥J losing to East's Queen; Diamond shift won by the Ace; ♥T is run around; Club to Dummy; ♥A is cashed (pitching a Diamond); Heart ruff; Club back to the board. Now another Diamond is pitched on the long Heart and Declarer has her 11 tricks (7 trumps, 3 Hearts and the ♦A). Not a difficult hand for those who didn't use up Dummy's trumps before tackling Hearts.

Anyone for 4♠? Yes, that's another contract where it doesn't pay to draw trumps immediately. In this case it is the Diamonds which must be established early, and Declarer goes down if he ruffs the opening Club lead and then draws three rounds of trumps. Instead the play goes: Club ruff; ♠A; Diamond to the Queen; Heart to the Queen; lose a Diamond. Now Declarer is in control and loses just two red Aces and a Diamond overruff.

#52 - PAYBACK TIME

In recent Bridge Bites, our West has been a bit of a pest, frequently coming up with dastardly plays which make Declarer's life difficult. This week we are delighted to report that West makes a slight slip and becomes the victim.

	♠ J975 ♥ 872 ♦ J96 ♣ A95	
♠ A ♥ JT ♦ AKQ84 ♣ Q8732	<i>North</i>	♠ T3 ♥ Q6543 ♦ 753 ♣ JT4
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ KQ8642 ♥ AK9 ♦ T2 ♣ K6	

E-W Vulnerable

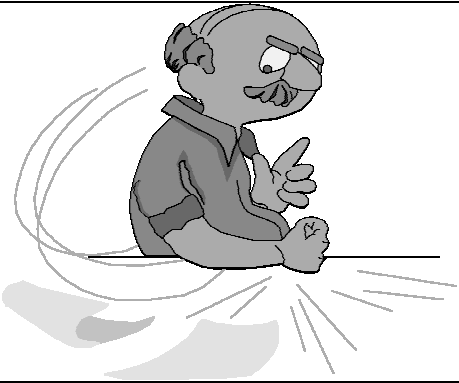
<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Perhaps South was a little boisterous in the bidding, a more prudent player would have merely invited game. But making seemingly impossible contracts is one of the joys of the game, and your job is to make 10 tricks after West plays three rounds of Diamonds.

It looks pretty grim, doesn't it? Two Diamonds have already been lost, the ♠A is another loser, and there appears to be an inescapable Heart loser. Down one? No, it's too soon to give

up! Declarer has a long-shot route to success, which requires that West started with the singleton trump Ace and no more than two Hearts. Step 1 is to cash the top Clubs and ruff a Club. Step 2 is to cash the ♥A and the ♥K. Now, Step 3 is to exit with a trump. Let's relish West's discomfort! Declarer's fine play has eliminated all of West's safe exit cards. With nothing left but Diamonds and Clubs, whatever West plays will give Declarer a ruff and discard ... he'll ruff the return in one hand and discard the "inescapable" Heart loser from the other. Making 10 tricks!

You see where West went wrong, of course. He needed to cash the ♠A early in the play (before the third round of Diamonds). Now, the elimination play does not work, and Declarer will eventually be down one.



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:



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