



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 2 – February, 2012

10 pages



February Events



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

February 6 – STaC open pairs

February 13 – open pairs

February 20 – open pairs

February 27 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

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

Thursday, February 2, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, February 4, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, February 6, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only pairs & STaC open pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, February 7, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, February 8, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, February 8, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Thursday, February 9, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, February 9, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Friday, February 8, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Saturday, February 11, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Westminster

Sunday, February 12, 1:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Monday, February 13, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, February 14, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

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

Thursday, February 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, February 18, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, February 20, 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, February 21, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, February 22, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, February 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, February 25, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, February 27, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, February 28, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, February 29, 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 2/1/2012 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,381.48 Betty Capodice**
- 2 **2,718.07 Steve Babin**
- *** **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3 **1,864.15 Mike Tomlianovich**
- 4 **1,742.21 Zack Freehill**
- 5 **1,655.61 Steve Hawthorne**
- 6 **1,539.97 Hank Hoffman**
- *** **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- 7 **1,363.44 Dewey Gronau**
- *** **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 8 **1,215.83 Eunice Patton**
- 9 **1,129.11 Stan Gutzman**
- *** **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 10 **1,081.22 Jeanne Strand**
- 11 **1,052.67 Ivey Weaver**
- 12 **919.72 Jean Barnett**
- 13 **845.11 Charlie Morton**
- 14 **792.95 Don Strand**
- 15 **789.73 Glen Beaman**
- *** **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- 16 **785.58 Ann Schuyler**
- 17 **755.55 Henrietta Crain**
- 18 **753.03 Randall Motchan**
- *** **741.06 Pearl Harris**
- *** **610.73 Martin Compton**
- 19 **591.93 Peg Deutsch**
- 20 **570.46 Ann Farnsworth**
- *** **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 21 **530.64 Dennis Moll**
- *** **481.88 Bev Upp**
- *** **474.92 Nona Wooley**
- 22 **473.53 Dave Freehill**
- 23 **461.74 Bob Smith**
- 24 **433.55 Steve Wulfers**
- 25 **396.48 Bev Meginnes**
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55 Dick Benson**
- 10,669.20 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- *** **4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,934.29 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,709.86 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- 3,297.67 Carl Brueckner-Champaign**
- 3,138.82 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,798.35 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,420.72 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,395.96 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,392.53 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,379.47 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,212.03 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,205.44 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,197.01 Leah Newell- Springfield**
- 2,104.75 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 2,017.16 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 2,036.22 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 1,878.66 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- 1,863.35 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- *** **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,538.77 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,487.88 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,406.80 Marilyn Stickel-Laon**
- 1,229.41 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- 1,057.15 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 1,021.65 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- *** **916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 777.92 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 772.50 Camilla Rabjohns**
- 727.99 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 691.84 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria**
- 621.75 Eunice Viktor-Morton**
- 614.05 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 590.68 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 570.35 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**

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#1

Perhaps the most important part of good defense is partnership trust. When your partner doesn't want you to continue a suit, he probably has a good reason.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-41	♣ 73				
Dir N	♥ A1094				
Vul None	♦ K52				
	♣ AK42	West	North	East	South
♣AK106			1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
♥62	□	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
♦987643		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣J					
	♣J852				
	♥53				
	♦A				
	♣Q109765				
	♣ Q94				
	♥ KQJ87				
	♦ QJ10				
	♣ 83				

BIDDING: South's jump to game closed the auction.

PLAY: West led the ace of spades and East discouraged with the deuce. Looking at dummy, West suspected his partner was not asking for a club shift so West led the nine of diamonds. East won the ace and returned a low spade. West won and a second diamond allowed East to ruff for the setting trick.

At most tables West ignored the deuce of spades at trick one and continued with the king. Defense is difficult but one way to simplify it is to carefully watch and understand each card your partner plays.

#2

It's always fun to execute a squeeze and this hand was particularly sweet. I had squeezed my good friend the day before and as he sat down he smiled and mentioned that hand. We had a routine hand and then we took out these cards.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-42	♠ 742				
Dir W	♥ J64				
Vul Both	♦ Q3				
	♣ AK965	West	North	East	South
♠KQ1085	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	Pass	3♥	4♦
♥73		Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
♦92		Pass			
♣QJ83					
	♠963				
	♥AKQ1092				
	♦54				
	♣102				
	♠ AJ				
	♥ 85				
	♦ AKJ10876				
	♣ 74				

BIDDING: In third seat East made a bold heart preempt. I was South and overcalled in diamonds hoping we weren't missing 3NT. My partner raised me to game.

PLAY: West led the 7 of hearts and East cashed the first two tricks. He continued with a third round and I ruffed high as West discarded the 8 of spades. Since East held the top three heart cards it was likely that most if not all of the missing honors were in the West hand. This was a very easy hand to play. I simply cashed the ace of spades followed by six rounds of diamonds. My friend who was squeezed yesterday was in the West chair and when I played the last diamond this was the ending:

	♣AK96
♠K	
♣QJ8	
	♠J ♦6 ♣74

Poor West could not keep the king of spades and three clubs and had to concede. A spade lead at trick one or after winning the first heart would have broken up the squeeze. West smiled as he left but I'm not sure he meant it.

#3

Most duplicate players know what a "fix" is. This describes receiving a bad result for doing nothing wrong. The usual cause is simply playing the hand against the wrong players.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-43	♠ J1097				
Dir W	♥ A	West	North	East	South
Vul None	♦ 109632	Pass	Pass	3♥	3NT
	♣ KQ6	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠A6542	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>				
♥4					
♦Q84					
	♠3				
	♥KQJ9876				
	♦J				

♣9732

♣10854

♠ KQ8
♥ 10532
♦ AK75
♣ AJ

BIDDING: In third seat East made a heart preempt and South bid 3NT. His heart stopper was “iffy” but he felt this bid best described his hand.

PLAY: West led the 4 of hearts won with dummy’s ace. Declarer was confident that East would not preempt with such a good heart suit and the ace of spades so the contract seemed safe. He cashed the top two diamonds followed by a third one when East discarded a heart. It was now a simple matter to knock out the ace of spades and claim eleven tricks.

What does this have to do with a fix? I was East and in a local game only one other N/S pair reached 3NT. I was rewarded with ½ matchpoint for making what seemed like a normal bid.

#4

Bridge players love to bid slams but some lack the tools that allow them to get to the optimum contract. Here is a well bid grand slam.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-44
Dir W
Vul None

♠ AKQJ6
♥ J8
♦ AQJ87
♣ 3

♠874
♥K65
♦103
♣J9762



♠953
♥Q97432
♦6
♣1084

♠ 102
♥ A10
♦ K9542
♣ AKQ5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	7NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

*Game forcing

BIDDING: North was surprised and delighted when his partner made a game-forcing diamond bid. North was immediately thinking slam, perhaps even a grand slam. Concerned about two losing hearts, North simply raised diamonds. South cooperated by cue bidding hearts and North jumped to 4NT to ask about keycards (4 aces + king of diamonds). South admitted to three keycards and North continued with 5NT to ask about kings. South showed the king of clubs and North could not contain himself and leaped to the grand slam in notrump.

PLAY: West led a spade and declarer quickly claimed thirteen tricks. Most pairs stopped in a small slam so this N/S pair earned a good result for their solid bidding. Their 2/1 bidding system allowed them to make forcing bids without having to jump and lose valuable bidding space.

Bloomington-Normal 70% club – years 2011 & 2012 only
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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

#53 - TIMING IS EVERYTHING



2♠
All Pass

Dbl

West's 2♠ (showing pushed N-S into the what happened in you would have done

West led the ♠K, won tricks it would be

and as the trump suit was so weak it was apparent that some ruffing would be required. One line that would clearly not work would be to get the enemy trumps out of the way first, that would leave Declarer a trick short (scoring only three trump tricks). So Declarer cashed the ♥A at Trick 2, and then, leaving three enemy trumps at large, he played on the side-suits. His general plan was to let the opponents take their trumps whenever they wished, but that was all they would get. He started with Dummy's high Clubs, but West ruffed the third round and played another Spade. Dummy ruffed, East over-ruffed and cashed her high Heart, leaving Declarer with just 9 tricks.

Declarer needed to time the play better if he was to score 10 tricks. At Trick 2 he must duck a trump! Now, he wins the Diamond return, plays the Ace of trumps and (leaving one enemy trump at large) goes about his business of cashing winners and cross-ruffing. Altogether Declarer has 11 potential tricks via the ♥A, four ruffs and six side-suit winners, but that enemy trump will rub out one of those tricks and reduce the total to 10. Making 4♥, thanks to careful timing.

#54 – A ROAD MAP

	♠ T ♥ 9765 ♦ A9632 ♣ AKQ	
♠ KQJ9653 ♥ 8 ♦ J8 ♣ 543	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ KQJT ♦ KQT54 ♣ T76
	♠ A872 ♥ A432 ♦ 7 ♣ J982	

E-W Vulnerable

West North East South

1♦ Pass

2♠ Dbl Pass 4♥

Pass Pass Dbl All Pass

If the N-S hands look familiar, that's because they were featured in last week's Bridge Bite. But the E-W hands have been changed, and East, who now has four trumps, could not resist doubling 4♥. That was not a wise move, as we are about to see.

Last week, in the absence of a Double, Declarer played for 3-2 trumps, and as that turned out to be the case, 10 tricks

could be made by winning the Spade lead, and ducking a round of trumps at Trick 2. Declarer could win the return, draw just one more round of trumps and, leaving one trump at large, could cash winners and cross-ruff his way to 10 tricks.

But this week Declarer has to make 10 tricks after East has doubled. Now it seems likely that East has 4 trumps and ducking a trump at Trick 2 will not work. East wins and returns a trump, and will later get in (with a Spade over-ruff or a Club ruff), draw another round of trumps and leave Declarer a trick short. So, guided by the Double, Declarer does not duck a trump at Trick 2. Instead, she cashes the ♥A and goes for three Diamond ruffs in her hand (confident that West is now out of trumps and cannot over-ruff). The play goes: ♠A; ♥A; ♦A; Diamond ruff; ♣A; Diamond ruff; ♣K; ♣Q; Diamond ruff. That's 9 tricks and when the ♣J is played next, there will be a 10th trick, one way or another.

No doubt East's Double seemed like a good idea at the time, but in fact it only served to give Declarer a road map to the winning line of play, by alerting him to the likely 4-1 trump split.

#55 - THAT SINKING FEELING

	♠ AK42 ♥ ♦ 764 ♣ AKT654	
♠ 765 ♥ T762 ♦ KQT95 ♣ 3	North West East Declarer	♠ ♥ QJ9543 ♦ J82 ♣ QJ98
	♠ QJT983 ♥ AK8 ♦ A3 ♣ 72	

The auction has not been recorded for posterity, but we can say that N-S must have bid quite superbly in order to reach the excellent contract of 7♠. "Nicely bid, Partner! A cold grand slam with only 28 combined HCP!" enthused Declarer when Dummy was tabled after the opening lead of the ♦K. Declarer was quite right, the slam was cold, but not the way that he played it. Of course, you can do better. How do you propose to make 13 tricks?

Declarer didn't bother to count his tricks, perhaps feeling that it would have been rather unsporting to waste time when he had so many trumps and Club winners. At Trick 2, he played a trump to Dummy's Ace and, when East showed out,

Declarer paused for thought (one trick too late!). It was then that he got that awful sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach, realizing that he could no longer get two ruffs in Dummy because of the shortage of entries back to his hand. Getting only one ruff would leave him a trick short, so he tried to set up the Clubs, but that lifeline failed him when the suit was 4-1. Down one!

"Rotten luck", sympathized North, in soothing tones. "If Spades or Clubs had broken reasonably you would have made your slam". What North politely refrained from saying was "Why on earth didn't you win the opening Diamond lead, cash the Hearts (pitching Diamonds), ruff a Diamond *high*, get back to hand with a trump, ruff a Heart *high*, cross back with another trump, and draw the last trump?"

#56 - FINESSE FATALE

	♠ J94 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ643 ♣ 7542	
♠ K53 ♥ KQT2 ♦ Q9872	North West East	♠ 2 ♥ AJ984 ♦ KT

♣ J	<i>Declarer</i>	♣ Q9863
	♠ AQT876	
	♥ 763	
	♦ 5	
	♣ AKT	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

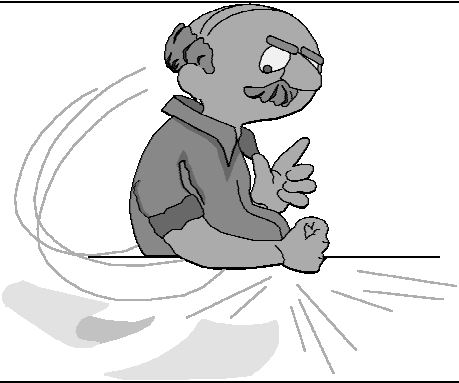
3♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass

N-S reached their Spade game one baby step at a time and West led the ♥K. Seeing the danger of Heart ruffs in Dummy, East overtook with his Ace and smartly shifted to a trump. That was sensible defense, now what would be sensible Declarer play?

It may seem routine to finesse the Spade, but that would be fatal. West wins his King and returns another trump. Oops! Now Declarer has only one Heart ruff in Dummy and is down one! The correct play is easy enough if Declarer counts his tricks. He has three side-suit winners, and if he can get *two* Heart ruffs in Dummy, then he can make do with just five trump tricks in his own hand. Ten easy tricks, but only if Declarer makes certain of both ruffs by hopping up with the ♠A at Trick 2. The full line of play is: ♥A; ♠A; Heart ruff; ♦A; Diamond ruff; Heart ruff; Diamond ruff; then play on trumps.

As Declarer was engineering those Heart ruffs he did well to return to hand with Diamond ruffs. If he had attempted to use the ♣A and ♣K as his entries then he'd have got a nasty shock when West ruffed the second Club for down one.

How about an opening trump lead? Does that set 4♠? Actually, no! Declarer wins and plays a Heart. If East wins that trick he cannot play another trump, and Dummy gets the two ruffs ... and if West wins he can lead a trump to stop the second ruff, but only at the expense of his natural trump trick. A Club opening lead is no better for the defense because, although the defense is able to arrange a Club ruff, that comes at the expense of their natural Club trick.



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:



**Peoria Sectional
March 2-4, 2012
Hult Health Center
Peoria, IL**