



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 3 – March, 2012

12 pages



March Events



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

March 5 – ACBL-wide seniors only open pairs

March 12 – open pairs

March 19 – open pairs

March 26 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Thursday, March 1, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 3, NO GAME – Peoria tournament

Monday, March 5, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs & open pairs – Heartland

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

Wednesday, March 7, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 8, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 10, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 12, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 13, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 14, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 15, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 17, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 19, 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 20, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 21, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 22, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 24, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 26, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, March 27, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 28, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 29, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, March 31, 11:45AM – 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 2/1/2012 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,395.77 Betty Capodice**
- 2 **2,729.23 Steve Babin**
- *** **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3 **1,876.74 Mike Tomlianovich**
- 4 **1,748.09 Zack Freehill**
- 5 **1,660.94 Steve Hawthorne**
- 6 **1,552.34 Hank Hoffman**
- *** **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- 7 **1,365.59 Dewey Gronau**
- *** **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 8 **1,227.15 Eunice Patton**
- 9 **1,132.04 Stan Gutzman**
- *** **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 10 **1,081.84 Jeanne Strand**
- 11 **1,053.01 Ivey Weaver**
- 12 **922.24 Jean Barnett**
- 13 **852.94 Charlie Morton**
- 14 **798.37 Ann Schuyler**
- 15 **792.95 Don Strand**
- 16 **789.73 Glen Beaman**
- *** **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- 17 **757.17 Henrietta Crain**
- 18 **756.93 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 **533.38 Dennis Moll**
- *** **481.88 Bev Upp**
- *** **474.92 Nona Wooley**
- 22 **477.60 Dave Freehill**
- 23 **461.74 Bob Smith**
- 24 **434.17 Steve Wulfers**
- 25 **396.48 Bev Meginnes**
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55 Dick Benson**
- 10,678.93 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- *** **4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,934.29 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,734.75 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- 3,300.00 Carl Brueckner-Champaign**
- 3,140.42 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,804.11 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,420.72 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,397.95 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,402.18 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,386.02 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,214.61 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,211.24 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,220.70 Leah Newell- Springfield**
- 2,107.57 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 2,018.65 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 2,037.02 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 1,902.70 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- 1,866.28 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- *** **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,543.20 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,489.79 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,409.01 Marilyn Stickel-Laon**
- 1,231.40 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- 1,067.15 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 1,027.31 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- *** **916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 784.11 Camilla Rabjohns**
- 780.25 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 727.99 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 691.84 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria**
- 621.75 Eunice Viktor-Morton**
- 615.27 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 590.68 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 573.87 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**

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#1

Too often the auction is forgotten once the play of the hand has begun. I recently declared this hand and found the bidding very helpful in placing the opponents' cards

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-45	♠ K6				
Dir E	♥ 94	West	North	East	South
Vul None	♦ J8765			Pass	1♠
	♣ J1064			DBL	3♥
♠ Q973		Pass	Pass	DBL	3♥
♥ 72	□	Pass	4♠	Pass	
♦ A1042		Pass			
♣ A95					
	♠ 4				
	♥ Q865				
	♦ KQ9				
	♣ Q8732				
	♠ AJ10852				
	♥ AKJ103				
	♦ 3				
	♣ K				

BIDDING: I was in the South chair and loved my hand. I was disappointed when my partner passed my opening bid but after East reopened with a double, I quickly jumped to show this strong two-suiter. Recognizing the value of her king of spades and doubleton heart, my partner made an excellent raise to game. With three likely defensive tricks West considered a penalty double but finally passed.

PLAY: West led the ace of clubs followed by the ace of diamonds. He then played a low spade and dummy's six won the trick. Remembering East's takeout double I placed the heart length and the queen in his hand. So at trick four I played the nine of hearts and was not surprised when it won. I cashed the king of spades followed by another heart to my jack. Next, I led the ace of spades and conceded a trick to the queen.

East regretted not passing out the hand at one spade.

#3

There is no doubt opening leads can be difficult. There are several rules to guide you such as the old standard “Lead 4th down in your longest and strongest suit.” However, there are hands where the auction is your best source of information.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-47	♠ 32	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ KQ5			Pass	1NT
Vul None	♦ AQ104	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
	♣ 10732	Pass			
♠ AJ76					
♥ 73					
♦ J9					
♣ QJ954					
	♠ K1085				
	♥ 8642				
	♦ 752				
	♣ 86				
	♠ Q94				
	♥ AJ109				
	♦ K863				
	♣ AK				

BIDDING: North–South had a routine auction to game.

PLAY: Since North-South made no attempt to uncover a major suit fit, West felt a club lead might not be best. Instead he led the six of spades and soon there were four tricks for the defense. Declarer then claimed nine tricks and made 3NT. The reason this interesting is that in a local 18-table game, this West was the only one to lead a spade. His score of -400 was top because everyone other West led a club and those declarers easily claimed ten tricks for +430.

The rule the other West players should have followed was “Listen to the Auction.”

#4

This hand is from a recent team game. One declarer played too quickly and failed. The other declarer stopped to count his tricks and develop a plan. He gave up a possible overtrick but brought home his contract.

Scoring: IMPs (Team)

#11-48	♠ 94		West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ Q86				Pass	2♣
Vul N/S	♦ A109632		Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
	♣ 84		Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♣Q52	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♣A108	Pass			
♥J109		♥7532	Pass			
♦J875		♦4	Pass			
♣KJ3		♣109652				
	♠ KJ763					
	♥ AK4					
	♦ KQ					
	♣ AQ7					

BIDDING: South's rebid of 2NT described a balanced hand with 22-24 high card points and North had an easy raise to game.

PLAY: On this auction West decided a major suit lead would be best so he started with the jack of hearts. Declarer won in his hand and had visions of overtricks. He continued by cashing the top two diamonds and East's club discard on the second round was very disappointing. He struggled but with only one remaining entry to dummy he could not find nine tricks. At the other table, the declarer stopped to count his tricks and realized he needed only five diamonds to succeed. At trick two he cashed the king of diamonds and then played the queen overtaking with dummy's ace. Next he led the ten of diamonds losing to the jack. He was now able to win the heart return in dummy and enjoy the remaining diamonds winners. His nine tricks were: 3 hearts, 5 diamonds, and 1 club.

It was not easy to explain the loss of 12 IMPs to his teammates. Playing too quickly before developing a plan has caused many contracts to fail.

Bloomington-Normal 70% club – years 2011 & 2012 only
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2012/02/22	70.56%	Joyce & Bob Clay(NLMers)
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



#57 - THE FORCING GAME

	♠ K52 ♥ A76 ♦ A54 ♣ Q872	
♠ AT98 ♥ 9832 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ 6	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 6 ♥ J54 ♦ T9876 ♣ A943
	♠ QJ743 ♥ KQT ♦ 2 ♣ KJT5	

None Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
			1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	
4♠	All Pass			

North might well have rebid 1NT (showing 12-14) but, being a polite sort of fellow, he supported Partner's Spades. Either way, South was destined to declare 4♠, and the fate of that contract rested on West's opening lead. What would be your choice?

When the hand was played in real life, West led a Club and got the immediate gratification of a Club ruff at Trick 2. West shifted to the ♦K, won in Dummy, followed by a trump to the Queen and South's Ace. West persisted with Diamonds, but Declarer ruffed that, drew the remaining trumps, and had nothing left but winners. Making 10 tricks.

West was on the wrong track when he pursued the Club ruff; that served only to weaken his trump holding while establishing Club winners for Declarer. Thanks to those good intermediate cards, West had two trump tricks even without scoring a ruff. He would have done better to attack Diamonds immediately. Look what happens. Declarer wins the opening Diamond lead, loses a trick to the ♠A, ruffs the Diamond continuation, and then gets the bad news about the 4-1 trump split. Declarer must still lose a trick to the ♣A and now another Diamond is ruinous and 4♠ goes down. The moral to this story is: *When you have a powerful trump holding it usually doesn't pay to go after ruffs. Better to attack with the defense's strong suit, forcing Declarer to weaken his own trumps and (hopefully) to lose control.*

#58 – A SELF-INFLICTED WOUND

	♠ Q97654 ♥ A7 ♦ 8 ♣ AK62	
♠ KT32 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJ95 ♣ T75	<i>North</i>	♠ AJ ♥ K432 ♦ T7432 ♣ QJ
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ 8 ♥ QJT985 ♦ A6 ♣ 9843	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East
2♥ Pass 4♥ All Pass

In the prior Bridge Bite, the defense prevailed by forcing Declarer to ruff repeatedly, causing him to lose trump control in the process. This time's Declarer suffered a similar fate but in this case he had no excuse, his defeat was entirely self-inflicted.

Against 4♥, West led the ♦K, won by Declarer's Ace. Assuming that Clubs were breaking 3-2, and by taking a Diamond ruff in Dummy, Declarer could count 10 tricks (5

trump winners, ♦A and a Diamond ruff, and 3 Clubs). The only losers would be a Spade, the ♥K, and a Club.

A pretty simple hand, eh? Well, not exactly! Declarer won the Diamond opening lead, ruffed a Diamond in Dummy, and cashed the ♥A. Declarer needed to get back to hand in order to draw trumps, and that would have to be done with a ruff. So he lost a Spade, ruffed the Diamond return, and played the ♥Q, driving out East's King. With West showing out of Hearts on the second round, and with East returning yet another Diamond, Declarer's goose was cooked. He could ruff the Diamond and draw East's remaining trumps, but then would be out of trumps himself. When he later lost the third round of Clubs, the defense would cash a Spade for down one.

Where did Declarer go wrong? At Trick 2 he should have ruffed the Diamond with Dummy's Ace! Now he can play a low Heart from the board, overtaking in hand if East plays low. This avoids the need for one of those ruffs, trump control is thereby retained, and 10 tricks roll home.

#59 - DUCK A LA GLYNDA

	♠ T62 ♥ 75 ♦ T7 ♣ AJT632	
♠ 97 ♥ A943 ♦ J852 ♣ Q98	<i>North</i>	♠ QJ83 ♥ T862 ♦ Q63 ♣ K4
	<i>West Glynda</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AK54 ♥ KQJ ♦ AK94 ♣ 75	

Don't be fooled by that title, what follows is not a recipe, it is a bridge column.

Both Vulnerable

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

This was played at a local club duplicate.

At every table the contract was 3NT played by South. And at almost every table the play went much the same way. West led a low Heart, won by Declarer. It was clear to Declarer that he would not have enough tricks unless Dummy's Clubs

could be established, so at Trick 2 he finessed the ♣J, losing to East's King. The defense continued Hearts and when Declarer got back in he took a deep breath and tried a second Club finesse. When that worked Declarer had no fewer than 11 tricks.

But, at one table, East (we'll refer to her as Glynda because that happened to be her name) found a rather fine play. When Declarer finessed the Clubs at Trick 2 she brazenly ducked her doubleton King! Well done, now the Club suit was dead as poultry (due to Dummy's shortage of entries), and was worth only two tricks instead of five. Declarer's last resort was to play on Spades, hoping that the suit was 3-3, but that did not work so there were just eight tricks, with no chance of a ninth. Down one! As husband West was gleefully writing +100 on his scorecard, he explained to Glynda "If I don't hold on to my Clubs when the Spades are played, Declarer makes his contract." "Quite so, my dear, nicely defended," replied Glynda.

#60 - A JOY TO BEHOLD

♠ KT4
♥ QJ4
♦ 8432
♣ 975

N-S Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ J87	<i>North</i>	♠ Q965
♥ T3	<i>West</i>	♥ 9765
♦ KQT6	<i>East</i>	♦ 75
♣ QT82	<i>Declarer</i>	♣ KJ3
	♠ A32	
	♥ AK82	
	♦ AJ9	
	♣ A64	

This deal was played in a team-of-four game. At both tables South opened 2NT, showing a balanced hand and 20-21 HCP, and North raised to game. West's opening lead was the ♦K. Do you see how to make 9 tricks?

Clue: There is some trickery involved!

At the first table, Declarer counted eight top tricks and the only prospect for a ninth was to score a second Diamond. One possibility was to let the ♦K win the first trick, in the

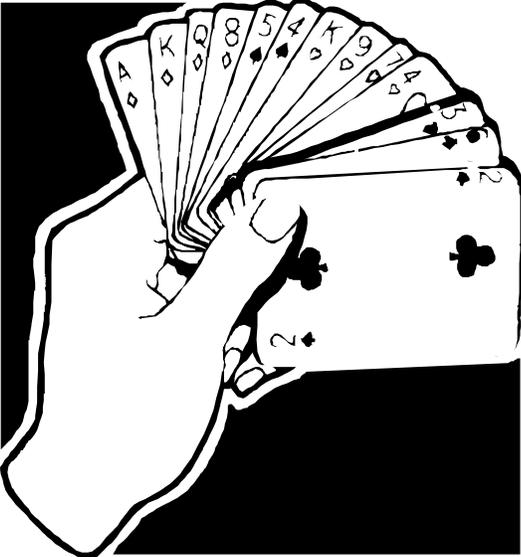
hope that West would be lured into continuing Diamonds, allowing Declarer's Jack to score (the so-called Bath Coup). But that was unlikely to work, as West (who had not been born the day before) would surely shift at Trick 2, presumably to a Club. Another chance for the ninth trick was to establish a second Diamond winner by force, eventually setting up Dummy's Eight. So, Declarer took the ♦A on the first trick and returned the ♦J, won by West's Queen. However, that line of play was also doomed to failure when West promptly shifted to a Club and the defense got their five tricks before Declarer could rustle up his nine tricks. Down one.

At the other table, West also led the ♦K, but this time Declarer found a rather surprising play. She smoothly dropped the Jack! Playing Declarer to have started with doubleton AJ, West confidently led a low Diamond to East's presumed Nine. It was a joy to behold the look of astonishment on West's face when it was Declarer who produced the Nine and claimed her nine 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!!

Upcoming tournaments:



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