



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 4 – April, 2012

10 pages



## April Events



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

April 2 – open pairs

April 9 – open pairs

April 16 – open pairs

April 23 – open pairs

April 30 – open pairs

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

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule:**

Monday, April 2, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs & open pairs – Heartland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, April 16, 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

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

Saturday, April 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, April 23, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

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

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

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

**Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!**

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 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

Some bridge players like to bid aggressively while others are a bit more careful. We all know that preempts often work and sometimes they don't. Here is a hand with very mixed results.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-49	♣ K1062				
Dir E	♥ J9	West	North	East	South
Vul None	♦ AQJ4			Pass	1NT
	♣ A105				
		3H	DBL	Pass	Pass
♠854	□	Pass			
♥AK76542					
♦5					
♣74					
	♠J109				
	♥Void				
	♦108762				
	♣Q9863				
	♠AQ3				
	♥Q1083				
	♦K103				
	♣KJ2				

**BIDDING:** After South opened 1NT, at one table West made a bold bid of three hearts. North followed with a negative double and South decided it was best to defend. West joked that at least he wasn't vulnerable and poor East just sighed.

**PLAY:** North led a low spade and West was held to four heart tricks and -1100 on the score card. It's not always right to bid your seven-card suit.

At another table, South thought he should bid over the negative double and chose three spades. This pair finally stopped at the contract of five spades. Three rounds of hearts from West established the jack of spades as a third defensive trick for down one. Sometimes it works to bid your seven-card suit.

Most West players passed their seven-card suit and the N/S pairs stopped in 3NT.

#2

To make your opponents pay for sacrificing over your contract, you need to be a good defender. In

this hand East was able to use the auction and the opening lead to find the winning defense.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#11-50	♠ J4		West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ QJ73			Pass	1♠	2♥
Vul E/W	♦ KQ1073				DBL*	Pass
	♣ 83		2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
♠532		♠ AQ10876	4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
♥10		♥542	DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦A952		♦6				
♣Q10974		♣AKJ				
	♠ K9					
	♥ AK986					
	♦ J84					
	♣ 652					

\*game try


**BIDDING:** This was a typically aggressive auction at matchpoint scoring. East's double was a game +try and West accepted by jumping to 4S. Next N/S decided to sacrifice against the vulnerable game. East's final pass suggested suggested bidding on but West felt he had already bid his hand.

**PLAY:** Since he had raised spades, West led the five rather than the usual low from three small. The lead was recognized by East as he saw declarer follow with the nine. Armed with that information, East decided his partner needed the ace of diamonds and queen of clubs for his leap to game. West might instead hold the ace of hearts, but East stuck with his original assumption and shifted to his singleton diamond at trick two. West won the ace and returned the deuce of diamonds, a suit-preference card asking for a club return. East ruffed the diamond and then played his king of clubs. After receiving encouragement from his partner, East continued with the jack of clubs to his partner's queen. A third diamond was now ruffed and N/S finished down four for -800. Most E/W pairs were allowed to play 4S making five for +650.

#3

The human brain is amazing. Not only does it allow us to memorize the correct card to lead from a particular suit combination, our brain is also capable of mathematics. Here is a hand where a defender found the right opening lead after some simple addition.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

#11-51	♠ AQ6		West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ J2			Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul N/S	♦ 10542		Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
	♣ K872		Pass			
♠ K73		♠ 1084				
♥ Q63		♥ 9874				
♦ AQJ93		♦ 87				
♣ 62		♣ QJ93				
	♠ J952					
	♥ AK105					
	♦ K6					
	♣ A104					

**BIDDING:** N/S had a routine auction to game.


**PLAY:** As West pondered his opening lead, he reflected on the auction. It appeared N/S had at the 26 high card points usually needed for game. Adding his points to this, it was clear that East was broke. So while the text book lead from this diamond holding is the queen, West started with the ace. After seeing dummy, West continued with a low diamond and this left declarer with no chance for 9 tricks. Declarer tried the heart finesse but West won and had 3 more diamonds to cash. At the other table, West led the queen of diamonds and this declarer soon had his 9 tricks: 2 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

This was a loss of 12 IMPs and the match. It pays to stop and think...and perhaps do a little math.

#4

The typical convention card lists many different agreements. Some of these conventions come up very rarely but when they do, they can be very useful.

**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)**

#11-52	♠ AKQ106		West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ AQ5				Pass	2♦
Vul E/W	♦ A10753		Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
	♣		Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
♠ J954		♠ 832	Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
♥ J63		♥ 1094				
♦ 9		♦ 6				
♣ Q8543		♣ AKJ1096	Pass			
	♠ 7					
	♥ K872					
	♦ KQJ842					
	♣ 72					

**BIDDING:** North started thinking slam as soon as he saw South's opening bid. North used 2NT to ask about outside controls and South showed a heart honor. Knowing this was the king, North was now thinking grand slam. The jump to 5♣ was Exclusion Keycard Blackwood asking South how

many keycards (4 aces + trump king) he held OUTSIDE of clubs. South admitted to one (the diamond king) and North confidently bid the grand slam.

**PLAY:** West led a trump and South quickly claimed all thirteen tricks. Most N/S pairs stopped in 6♦ but this N/S pair had the tools to reach the grand slam. Note that simple Blackwood or Roman Keycard would not help because North could not be certain which ace or keycard was missing.

Some partnerships refuse to open a weak-2 bid when holding four cards in an outside major suit. Obviously this hand is an argument for exceptions to that rule.

**Bloomington-Normal 70% club – years 2011 & 2012 only**  
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**Eastland Medical Plaza, 1505 Eastland Drive, Bloomington**

<b>2012/03/15</b>	<b>75.46%</b>	<b>Mike Tomlianovich &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2012/02/22</b>	<b>70.56%</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Bob Clay(NLMers)</b>
<b>2011/12/08</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Jeff Furler &amp; Jerry Oswald</b>
<b>2011/12/07</b>	<b>72.92%</b>	<b>Joyce Clay &amp; JoAnn Schroeder(NLMers)</b>
<b>2011/12/03</b>	<b>72.62%</b>	<b>Jeff Furler &amp; Hank Hoffman</b>
<b>2011/11/16</b>	<b>77.78%</b>	<b>Cindy Moore &amp; Lori Moore(NLMers)</b>
<b>2011/11/14</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Patty &amp; Rodger Paul(99ers)</b>
<b>2011/10/09</b>	<b>70.56%</b>	<b>JoAnn Schroeder &amp; Sallie Boge(NLMers)</b>
<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>

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

**#61 - A THOUGHTFUL LEAD**

	♠ AQT6 ♥ 76 ♦ T976 ♣ QT2	
♠ 752 ♥ AQ93 ♦ 854 ♣ K43	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>Declarer</i>	♠ KJ98 ♥ J854 ♦ J2 ♣ 876
	♠ 43 ♥ KT2 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ AJ95	

*None Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass  
 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass  
 3NT Pass Pass Pass

South's 1NT showed 15-17 HCP so, when North invited game with 2NT, South readily accepted with his top-of-the-line 17-point maximum. After this auction, looking at the West hand only, what would be your opening lead?

Against No Trump contracts, conventional wisdom says "Fourth best from your longest and strongest" and, without pausing for thought, many Wests would follow this advice

and lead a low Heart. But that doesn't work out well on this particular deal. Declarer wins the trick, cashes his Diamonds (ending in Dummy), and runs the ♠Q around to West's King. Now the defense

cashes the Hearts but that is all they get and Declarer has his nine tricks.

A more thoughtful West might conclude that perhaps a passive lead is required. Thought 1: There is a good chance that the ♥K is to West's right in Declarer's strong hand. If so, then an opening Heart lead will blow a trick. Thought 2: N-S reached game via an invitational sequence, so the contract may be a close-run thing. Why run the risk of handing Declarer his 9<sup>th</sup> trick with an aggressive lead? Thought 3: Even if it happens that East has the ♥K, it is somewhat unlikely that the suit will provide more than four tricks for the defense. That being the case, maybe the defense can afford to be patient.

So, with no guarantee of success (opening leads really are something of a crap shoot), West guesses to start with the "top-of-nothing" Spade Seven. Let's savor the ensuing carnage! Declarer finesses Dummy's ♠Q (or ♠T), won by East. Back comes a Heart won by West's Queen. Then another Spade, taken by Dummy's Ace (Declarer cannot afford another Heart lead from East). The Club finesse loses, and now the defense reels off a bunch of major suit winners. The bottom line is down four!

### #62 - MEA CULPA

	♠ T9654 ♥ 763 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ85	
♠ K ♥ KJ2 ♦ AQT432 ♣ Q76	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>Declarer</i>	♠ A2 ♥ QT985 ♦ J98 ♣ T32
	♠ QJ873 ♥ A4 ♦ K65 ♣ K94	

*Both Vulnerable*

**South West North East**  
1♠ 2♦ 4♠ All Pass

When these cards were dealt in a team game, both Declarers played in 4♠. At one table, West led a Club and Declarer eventually pitched her Heart loser on the 13<sup>th</sup> Club, for 10 tricks. At the other table, West found a Heart lead, and now Declarer did not have the timing to draw trumps and then get rid of the Heart loser. Down one!

That adverse game swing cost the match, and West on the losing team apologized profusely to his team-mates for his unsuccessful Club lead. "No problem", they politely replied, "opening leads are tough, it was just a guess." And, on that note, the losers went home, with West resolving to re-read "Opening Leads 101".

But our eagle-eyed readers will have noticed that the real culprit was South! Yes, indeed, 4♠ can be made even with an opening Heart lead. Declarer wins the ♥A, and instead of playing on trumps he cashes the ♠K, finesses the ♠J, cashes the ♠A, and leads the 13<sup>th</sup> Club on which he pitches his Heart loser. The defense can ruff that last Club, but whether they ruff with the Ace or the King or the Two, they will sacrifice a natural trump trick. They'll end up scoring the ♦A, a Club ruff, but only one trump trick. So you can return that book to the library, Mr. West, and buy "Exotic Coups for Beginners" as a birthday present for South.



## #63 - THIRD TIME LUCKY

	♠ 2 ♥ KQJT ♦ QT86 ♣ AQJ9	
♠ Q9874 ♥ 75 ♦ K94 ♣ 842	North  West East  Declarer	♠ KT63 ♥ A64 ♦ A532 ♣ T7
	♠ AJ5 ♥ 9832 ♦ J7 ♣ K653	

*E-W Vulnerable*

	South	West	North	East
			1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass		3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass		Pass	Pass

West led a Spade and Declarer saw an easy route to 10 tricks. He'd get two Spade ruffs in Dummy, added to which there would be three more trump tricks, the ♠A and four Clubs. Seems too easy, what's the catch?

The play went: ♠A, Spade ruff, cross to the ♣K, Spade ruff, Heart to East's Ace, Club won by Dummy, after which

Dummy's last trump was cashed. "Oops!" said Declarer. There was still an enemy trump out, but Declarer could not get back to hand to draw it. Eventually he ran into a Club ruff and that was down one.

Could Declarer have brought home his game by drawing trumps immediately, planning for just one Spade ruff, with the Diamonds providing the 10<sup>th</sup> trick? Nope! The play goes: ♠A, ♥K is ducked by East (good play!), ♥A wins the next trick, Spade return is ruffed on the board. It's another "Oops!" Now the defense is a step ahead of Declarer, and will score a Spade trick before Declarer can set up his Diamond winner.

To avoid a third "Oops!" Declarer must go to work on the Diamonds at Trick 2. This subtle change in timing leaves the defense with no winning option, and now it is Declarer who is one step ahead of the game. The first chapter in books on card play invariably says "Draw the defenders' trumps before they start ruffing your winners", and then the remaining chapters are dedicated to explaining the numerous exceptions to this rule. Setting up side-suit tricks early is a common such exception.

## #64 - PLAYING THE PERCENTAGES

	♠ AQ8 ♥ 643 ♦ K2 ♣ QJ765	
♠ K963 ♥ 9 ♦ JT9 ♣ AT432	North  West East  Declarer	♠ T4 ♥ 875 ♦ Q8643 ♣ K98
	♠ J752 ♥ AKQJT2 ♦ A75 ♣	

*Both Vulnerable*

	South	West	North	East
			1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass		2♥	Pass
6♥	Pass		Pass	Pass

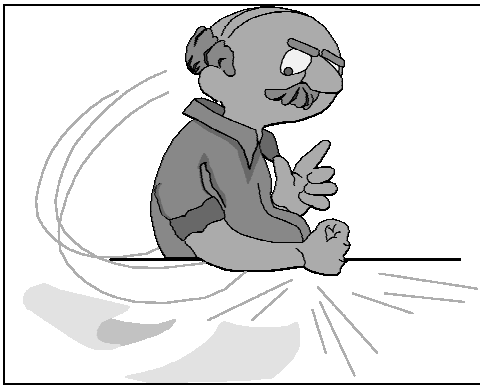
West leads the ♦J and when Dummy goes down you can count only 11 tricks: six trumps in hand, two Diamonds and a ruff in Dummy, and two Spades (regardless of who holds the ♠K). Where's the 12<sup>th</sup> trick?

To make your contract, you will need to score a third Spade trick. After the ♠Q has been successfully finessed on the first round, how do you play to the second round of Spades? You are doomed to failure if the missing Spades are 5-1 ... and destined for success if the suit is 3-3 ... so what's the play that gives you the best chance when the Spades are 4-2? The two choices are:

- *Either*, cash the ♠A, hoping that West started with a doubleton King.
- *Or*, lead the ♠J from hand (which West will cover with the King). This caters for East holding the doubleton Ten or doubleton Nine, allowing Declarer's mighty ♠7 to provide the 12<sup>th</sup> trick!

That should be an easy decision! Kx with West is one winning chance ... Tx or 9x with East is two winning chances. It doesn't need a mathematician to figure out which play is more likely to succeed. After the percentage play brings home the slam, Declarer will avoid saying "My 6♥ was a bit optimistic, but of course I wouldn't have bid it without the Spade Seven". Unless, that is, he wants to infuriate the opponents.

**Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!**



**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:



**Illini Regional  
May 22-28, 2012  
Hilton Gardens  
Champaign, IL**