



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 5 – May, 2012

10 pages



May Events



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

May 7 – open pairs May 14 – open pairs

May 21 – open pairs May 28 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Tuesday, May 1, 6:15PM – open pairs – Heartland

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

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

Saturday, May 5, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

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

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

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

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

Saturday, May 12, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, May 14, 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, May 28, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs - TBA

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

Wednesday, May 30, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, May 31, 11:45AM – open 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.

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!

The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders
 As of 4/6/2012 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 3,411.52 Betty Capodice
- 2 2,761.30 Steve Babin
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 3 1,892.13 Mike Tomlianovich
- 4 1,779.36 Zack Freehill
- 5 1,682.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 6 1,567.44 Hank Hoffman
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- 7 1,375.11 Eunice Patton
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 8 1,372.32 Dewey Gronau
- 9 1,141.83 Stan Gutzman
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 10 1,085.83 Jeanne Strand
- 11 1,054.10 Ivey Weaver
- 12 928.26 Jean Barnett
- 13 866.43 Charlie Morton
- 14 825.89 Ann Schuyler
- *** 792.95 Don Strand
- 15 790.43 Glen Beaman
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- 16 781.86 Randall Motchan
- 17 758.18 Henrietta Crain
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- *** 610.73 Martin Compton
- 18 594.37 Peg Deutsch
- 19 570.80 Ann Farnsworth
- *** 567.22 Ruth Wettaw
- 20 540.11 Dennis Moll
- *** 481.88 Bev Upp
- *** 474.92 Nona Wooley
- 21 485.80 Dave Freehill
- 22 461.74 Bob Smith
- 23 440.94 Steve Wulfers
- 24 398.63 Bev Meginnes
- 25 358.78 Stevie Joslin
- *** deceased

Other players:

- *** 12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 10,758.54 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- *** 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 3,938.86 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,767.14 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- 3,316.71 Carl Brueckner-Champaign
- 3,163.81 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 2,813.84 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 2,424.49 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,410.93 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,419.58 Liz Zalar-Springfield
- 2,411.25 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,215.70 Chuck Zalar-Springfield
- 2,244.83 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,235.68 Leah Newell- Springfield
- 2,120.85 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,037.24 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria
- 2,058.54 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 1,919.42 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,908.13 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,559.82 Tim Cull-Arizona
- 1,492.24 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,425.22 Marilyn Stickel-Laon
- 1,244.38 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 1,076.86 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,034.41 Donna Kaufman-Peoria
- *** 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 825.12 Camilla Rabjohns
- 785.50 Bev Fast-Peoria
- 728.42 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 691.84 Marilyn Toubeaux-Peoria
- 621.75 Eunice Viktor-Morton
- 619.91 Bill Carley-Peoria
- 590.93 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 584.44 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria

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#1

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				
	♣ K872	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♠ K73		Pass			
♥ Q63	□				
♦ AQJ93					
♣ 62					
	♠ 1084				
	♥ 9874				
	♦ 87				
	♣ 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 least 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.

#2

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					
Vul E/W	♦ A10753				Pass	2♦
	♣		Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
♣ J954		♣ 832	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
♥ J63		♥ 1094	Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
♦ 9		♦ 6	Pass			
♣ 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.

#3

One of the most frequent mistakes made when declaring or defending is a hasty play to trick one. It usually pays to develop a plan before making your first decision. This hand drives home that important point.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#12-01	♠ KQ8		West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ A975				1♦	1♥
Vul E/W	♦ J108					
	♣ 753		1♣	2♦	2♣	4♥
♠ AJ1032		♠ 9765	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ J8		♥ Q10				
♦ 76		♦ KQ954				
♣ 10984		♣ AQ				
	♠ 4					
	♥ K6432					
	♦ A32					
	♣ KJ62					

BIDDING: After North made a cue bid to show an invitational hand with heart support, South made a bold jump to game.

PLAY: West led the seven of diamonds covered by the jack, queen, and ace. Declarer drew trumps followed by a low spade from his hand. West hopped up with the ace and returned his other diamond. East won the nine and queen and quickly cashed the ace of clubs for down one. Declarer erred by winning the first diamond. If instead he follows with a low diamond from his hand, East has no good answer. He will probably play two rounds of clubs but South will win, draw trumps, and then lead a spade toward dummy. West can duck or win the ace but this lucky game will succeed.

#4

Conventions can be very useful when confronted with a bidding problem. However, common sense must prevail before you use them at a higher level. This declarer was put in a bad position by his partner who did not understand this.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#12-02	♠ AK53				
Dir S	♥ 1085				
Vul N/S	♦ 32	West	North	East	South
	♣ Q542				1♦
♠ 96		3♥	DBL	Pass	3NT
KQJ974	♠ Q8742	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 2	♥				
♦ 86	♦ KQJ10				
♣ K7	♣ J1086				
	♠ J10				
	♥ A63				
	♦ A9754				
	♣ A93				

BIDDING: North looked at his hand, saw four spades and four clubs and made a negative double over West's preempt. South's last chance for a plus score was to pass for penalties but the vulnerability persuaded him to bid game.

PLAY: West led the king of hearts and declarer had no chance. Or rather, he had no tricks. He won the ace of hearts and tried the spade finesse. That lost and a diamond came back. He won the second round with the ace, cashed the 10 of spades, and led a club. West won the king and declarer was soon down five tricks.

What caused this terrible result for N/S? North was not strong enough to make a negative double at that level. He was forcing his partner to either defend, bid 3NT, or bid a suit at the four-level and his nine high card points do not justify that action. It makes sense that you need more values to bid at each level.

South could and probably should have passed the negative double, but he had every right to expect a better dummy.

Bloomington-Normal 70% club – years 2011 & 2012 only
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2012/04/25 70.15% Roberta Weddig & Joe Krause(NLMers)
2012/04/18 79.17% Carol Denny & Gaye Hoselton(NLMers)
2012/04/11 70.56% Lou Savage & Jim Fernstrom(NLMers)
2012/04/02 72.65% Dorothy Berg & Joyce Werner(99ers)
2012/03/15 75.46% Mike Tomlianovich & Steve Babin
2012/02/22 70.56% Joyce & Bob Clay(NLMers)
2012/02/09 72.92% Eunice Patton & Jeff Furler

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

#65 -- NICE TRY!

♠ A9752 ♥ 985 ♦ A97 ♣ 64	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ QT86 ♥ J64 ♦ JT653 ♣ 8
♠ KJ ♥ AKT7 ♦ K84 ♣ T753		♠ 43 ♥ Q32 ♦ Q2 ♣ AKQJ93

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♣ 1♥ 1♠ 2♥

3♣ Pass Pass Pass

West cashes the ♥A and gets the discouraging Four from East. West shifts to a trump, after which things look bleak! From the bidding and the play to the first trick it appears that West has overcalled with ♥AKxx. How do you avoid losing five tricks?

The only chance is an end-play against West. If you can force him to play a second round of Hearts or to lead the first round of Diamonds, then one of your losers will disappear.

The best hope is that West has the doubleton Spade King, in which case you can draw trumps, play a Spade to the Ace, and exit a Spade. West is forced to win the trick with his ♠K, and must now play one of the red suits. Bingo, that's 9 tricks!

That was well done, but if Zia had been sitting West he would have dumped the ♠K on the first round

of Spades! No problem! Your clever counter would be to duck that trick (remember, the idea is to keep East off lead) and to win the Spade return with Dummy's Ace. Now you ruff a Spade and, when Zia shows out, you can count his original distribution as 2=4=3=4. So you cash your last trump and Zia is squeezed! He has these unpleasant choices:

- If he comes down to ♥Kx ♦Kx, you play ♦A and out a Diamond, end-playing him in Hearts.
- If he comes down to ♥K ♦Kxx, you throw him in with a Heart and make a surprising overtrick!
- If he comes down to ♥Kxx ♦K, you can cash two Diamonds.

Good defense, Zia, but not quite good enough!

#66 -- A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE

	♠ T97 ♥ 96 ♦ KJ654 ♣ AJT	
♠ Q854 ♥ KT85 ♦ 7 ♣ 8532	North West East Declarer	♠ J32 ♥ A72 ♦ AT98 ♣ 964
	♠ AK6 ♥ QJ43 ♦ Q32 ♣ KQ7	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Which of West's 4-card suits would you lead against 3NT? As North did not bother with Stayman, there would be a tendency to lead a major in this situation. So, let us assume that West leads his 4th best Heart, if only because it's the stronger suit.

East's ♥A won the opening lead, the Heart Seven was returned to Declarer's Queen and West's King, and the third round of the suit knocked out Declarer's Heart stopper, setting up a third Heart winner for the defense. Next Declarer played on Diamonds. East won the Ace and, being out of Hearts, shifted to a Spade, won by Declarer. Thanks to the 4-1 Diamond break there was still a Diamond to be lost, but eventually Declarer was able to rustle up his 9th trick in the suit. Poor West never did score that third Heart trick, and the defense had to make do with two Hearts and two Diamonds.

West slipped up when he won the second round of Hearts. With no quick entry, West must keep the Heart suit as the line of communication between the E-W hands. So West must duck the second trick, letting Declarer have her Heart trick early and leaving East in a position to lead Hearts again when he gets in with the ♦A. Now the defense scores three Heart tricks and two Diamonds, and that's down one.

The defense did not shine here, and had to do everything just wrong to let 3NT make. A Club or a Spade opening lead would beat the contract ... as would a Heart lead and a (non-obvious) Spade shift by East at Trick 2 ... or the aforementioned Heart lead and duck of the second round of Hearts.

#67 -- A FREE SHOT

	♠ A42 ♥ 865 ♦ 9643 ♣ T43	
♠ QJ7 ♥ KQJ97 ♦ 875 ♣ 85	North West East Declarer	♠ T985 ♥ AT432 ♦ K2 ♣ KJ
	♠ K63	

♥
♦ AQJT
♣ AQ9762

Pass Pass Pass

None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	Pass	4♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl

Against 5♣ doubled, West leads a Heart, ruffed by Declarer's Club Two. Over to the ♠A, Club finesse, cash the ♠A, back to Dummy's ♠T, Diamond finesse. 12 tricks! Was that a foolish Double or what?

It's always embarrassing when you double them and they make an overtrick. But East missed the chance for a delicious deception! When Declarer leads a trump from Dummy at Trick 3, East might casually play the King! Now look at the hand from Declarer's point of view. East "obviously" started with the singleton ♣K ... the bad news is that there is a trump loser to West's ♣J85 ... the good news is that by now playing low towards Dummy's ♠T (instead of cashing the ♣Q) Declarer can force a second entry to the board for the Diamond finesse.

So, Declarer tries the aforementioned, but Dummy's ♠T is taken by East's Jack! That play of the ♣K has swindled a trump trick for the defense. And it has also swindled Declarer out of an entry to the board. Now the Diamond finesse cannot be taken and it's down one instead of making with an overtrick!

East's falsecard was almost a free shot. East may not have foreseen the havoc it would wreak, he just needed to know that unless West had the singleton ♠A his play would not cost, and that one way or another it might gain. As for South, he could have saved the day. He had ruffed the opening Heart lead with the trump nearest to his left thumb, and unfortunately for him that was the Two. If he had saved that valuable Two for later and splurged out with the Six or Seven, he would still have a trump entry to the board for the Diamond finesse. But who would think of that at Trick 1?

#68 -- A STRANGE LEAD

	♠ JT3 ♥ 743 ♦ J86 ♣ AK87	
♠ 982 ♥ KQJT952 ♦ ♣ 963	North West East Declarer	♠ A ♥ A6 ♦ T9743 ♣ QJT42
	♠ KQ7654 ♥ 8 ♦ AKQ52 ♣ 5	

Both Vulnerable

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

West's 3♥ jump overcall showed long Hearts and not much else (preemptive, in other words), and South eventually bought the contract in 4♠. Put yourself in the West seat. You'd love to get a Diamond ruff (or two) but, alas, you are on opening lead. Any thoughts?

This deal was played in a team game and at one table West routinely led the ♥K. Declarer ruffed the second Heart and played a trump to East's Ace. A Diamond was returned for West to ruff, briefly raising the hopes of E-W. But that was all they got, and Declarer had 10 tricks. In the post mortem West stated the obvious by pointing out that East needed to overtake the King with his ♥A at Trick 1 and shoot back a Diamond, getting the defense *two* ruffs and setting the contract.

At the other table, West was made of smarter stuff. At Trick 1 she led the Heart *Two*! Unless leading "top of a sequence" it is customary to lead 4th best from a long suit (some prefer "3rd or 5th"), so that Heart Two was distinctly fishy-looking, considering that West's bidding had announced 6 or 7 Hearts. What was West trying to say by her strange lead? She clearly wanted a shift, probably for a ruff. East concluded that Diamonds were more promising than Clubs, all the more so as, if West was out of Clubs, then East had natural Club tricks coming his way. So back came a Diamond for the

first of two ruffs. Down one!

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**