



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 11 – November, 2012

12 pages



November Events



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

November 5 – STaC open pairs November 12 – open pairs

November 19 – open pairs November 26 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

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

Thursday, November 1, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Heartland

Friday, November 2, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs - Heartland

Saturday, November 3, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland ← SPECIAL LOCATION

Thursday, November 4, 1:15PM – Special STaC open pairs– Knights of Columbus

Monday, November 5, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, November 6, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Heartland

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

Wednesday, November 7, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs - Heartland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, November 19, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs - Heartland

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

Wednesday, November 21, 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 22, NO GAME – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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

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

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

Wednesday, November 28, 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 29, 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 9/1/2012 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,444.42 Betty Capodice**
- 2 **2,880.56 Steve Babin**
- *** **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3 **1,915.94 Mike Tomlianovich**
- 4 **1,886.23 Zack Freehill**
- *** **1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne**
- 5 **1,636.68 Hank Hoffman**
- 6 **1,547.34 Eunice Patton**
- 7 **1,402.89 Dewey Gronau**
- *** **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- *** **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 8 **1,178.14 Stan Gutzman**
- 9 **1,094.50 Jeanne Strand**
- *** **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 10 **1,071.62 Ivey Weaver**
- 11 **957.87 Jean Barnett**
- 12 **917.59 Charlie Morton**
- 13 **895.07 Ann Schuyler**
- 14 **829.55 Randall Motchan**
- 15 **792.97 Glen Beaman**
- *** **792.95 Don Strand**
- *** **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- 16 **759.21 Henrietta Crain**
- *** **741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 17 **616.81 Peg Deutsch**
- *** **610.73 Martin Compton**
- 18 **582.78 Dennis Moll**
- 19 **570.80 Ann Farnsworth**
- *** **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 20 **525.06 Dave Freehill**
- 21 **497.01 Cindy Moore**
- 22 **485.72 Steve Wulfers**
- *** **481.88 Bev Upp**
- *** **474.92 Nona Wooley**
- 23 **461.74 Bob Smith**
- 24 **403.48 Bev Meginnes**
- 25 **385.29 Stevie Joslin**
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy**
- 10,896.88 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- *** **4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 3,966.38 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,923.33 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- 3,372.41 Carl Brueckner-Champaign**
- 3,328.03 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,868.60 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 2,527.86 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,485.50 Liz Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,430.66 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,412.51 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,374.53 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,241.91 Chuck Zalar-Springfield**
- 2,172.60 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,172.08 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 2,077.45 Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria**
- 1,994.10 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 1,949.34 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- *** **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,597.83 Tim Cull**
- 1,513.13 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,450.51 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,245.96 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- 1,139.80 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 1,066.87 Donna Kaufman-Peoria**
- *** **916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 918.58 Ron Emmett**
- 885.71 Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights**
- 798.05 Bev Fast-Peoria**
- 751.32 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 638.40 Bill Carley-Peoria**
- 615.47 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**
- 596.42 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 441.95 Chris Biggs-South Carolina**

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#1

It is essential to use proper tempo when defending a hand. A long hesitation can give away valuable information and playing too quickly can cost a trick. Finding this tempo comes with experience and new players sometimes have to learn the hard way.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#12-23	♣ J3	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ Q752		Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Vul none	♦ K52	Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♥
	♠ AJ98	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
♣ A762	□	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 6					
♦ QJ8763					
♠ 107					
	♣ 94				
	♥ KJ9				
	♦ A109				
	♠ K6543				
	♣ KQ1085				
	♥ A10843				
	♦ 4				
	♠ Q2				

BIDDING: I was sitting South and took a rosy view of the hand. Or better said, I simply overbid.

Play: West led the ten of clubs and I could see a likely loser in each suit. In fact, I would have to have some luck in the heart suit to keep my losers there to one. After quickly assessing the situation I saw that East was a new player and might fall for an old trick. I won the ace of clubs and dropped my queen. I then called for the eight of clubs, and as I had hoped, East ducked and the eight won the trick. I had eliminated one loser so I now turned my attention to the trump suit. If the outstanding trumps were 4-0, I would lose two tricks and if they were 2-2, I would lose only one trick. If they were 3-1, I would have to read it correctly. I led a low heart from dummy and East hesitated for just a moment before contributing the nine. If he held KJ9 I needed to play the 10 but if it was the singleton 9, I needed to rise with the ace and lead another toward the queen. Since he had length in the club suit my natural reaction would be to play him for shortness in the heart suit, but his hesitation did him in. I played the ten and wrapped up the game losing only 1 spade, 1 heart, and 1 diamond.

I won a few matchpoints and East took away some experience.

#2

It's agreed that defense is difficult. But sometimes simply counting declarer's tricks will allow you to find your way.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#12-24	♠ KQ4	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ KJ		1♣	Pass	1♦
Vul none	♦ K876	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
	♣ 9632	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♠ A87		Pass			
♥ Q10986		Pass			
♦ 43					
♣ Q108					
	♠ J93				
	♥ 743				
	♦ Q9				
	♣ AKJ74				
	♠ 10652				
	♥ A52				
	♦ AJ1052				
	♣ 5				

BIDDING: I really won't comment on the bidding other than to say it worked.

Play: West led the ten of hearts won by the jack in dummy. Declarer had to bring in the diamond suit to have any chance so he played the king followed by a low one. When the queen popped up declarer could count 8 tricks so he next tried to sneak a spade trick by West. That defender was not falling for that so he rose with the ace and.....continued hearts. When the spade jack later dropped declarer had 11 tricks: 3 spades, 3 hearts, and 5 diamonds. It should have been clear to West that declarer had 3 hearts and 5 diamonds so the only hope was to win the ace of spades and switch to clubs.

By the way, these teams were playing for a national club championship. I will be gracious and not mention the name of their country.

#3

A good declarer will avoid unnecessary finesses and will also try to make the opponents lead a suit for him.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

#12-25	♠ Q1074	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ Q10643		Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥
Vul none	♦ 6	Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
	♣ J32	Pass			
♠ 65					
♥ 75					
♦ QJ9874					
♣ A96					
	♠ K2				
	♥ AJ982				
	♦ A52				
	♣ Q85				

BIDDING: South didn't like making a two-level overcall on a five-card suit but felt it was his best choice. North jumped to game to close the auction.

Play: West led the six of spades, East followed with the eight, and declarer won the king. Declarer saw he had a spade to lose along with four other possible losers: the king of hearts and three clubs. At trick two, declarer played the ace of diamonds and then trumped a diamond in dummy. The queen of hearts found the king on side so declarer now only had to worry about the club suit. He saw the answer...he ruffed his last diamond in dummy followed by a heart to the jack drawing the last trump. Next he led a low spade to dummy's seven and East was end-played. A spade return would establish a trick for declarer and if he instead led a club, declarer would win the third round.

Those declarers who played clubs themselves hoping East held both top honors were disappointed.

#4

Overtricks are very important in a pairs event. Sometimes you can be sure of the location of the missing high cards but other times you must rely on your "table feel."

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#12-26	♠ J4	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ 6532		Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Vul none	♦ Q85	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2NT
	♣ AQ104	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♠ Q1076		Pass			
♥ 98		Pass			
♦ 632					
♣ 9852					
	♠ 852				
	♥ AJ104				
	♦ KJ109				
	♣ J3				
	♠ AK93				
	♥ KQ7				
	♦ A74				
	♣ K76				

BIDDING: I was sitting South and my jump to 2NT showed a balanced hand with 18-19 high card points. My partner bid game.

Play: West led the six of spades and I won with the jack in dummy. I continued with a low heart to my king. Next I played a club to dummy's queen followed by a second heart. East rose with the ace and continued with the jack of hearts to my queen. I then played the king of clubs and was delighted to see the jack fall. I cashed the ace and king of spades discarding a diamond from dummy as East discarded the jack of diamonds on the last spade. I led my last club to dummy's ace and then played the ten of clubs discarding a low diamond. East was laboring over his discards so I was confident he held the king of diamonds. Here was the 3-card ending with the lead in dummy:

♥ 6 ♦ Q8
 ♥ J
 ♦ K10
 ♠ 3 ♦ A7

I led the six of hearts and discarded the spade from my hand. East had to lead away from his king of diamonds for my eleventh trick.

Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2012 only
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2012/10/24	79.16%	Dorothy Berg & Mike Gross(99ers)
2012/09/29	73.75%	Asher Kach & Aaron Hanford
2012/09/26	73.44%	Joe Krause & John Sheen(NLMers)
2012/09/24	70.62%	Melissa Paschold & Mike Gross(99ers)
2012/08/29	72.22%	Vi Kothe & Dorothy Berg(NLMers)
2012/08/15	72.78%	Carol Denny & Mary Houska(NLMers)
2012/08/15	72.78%	Mary Tweedie & Cindy Moore(NLMers)
2012/08/01	72.78%	Cindy Moore & Jerry Oswald(NLMers)
2012/07/25	75.00%	Nancy Callis & Sallie Boge(NLMers)
2012/06/18	72.22%	Melissa Paschold/Bev Branning & Mike Gross(99ers)
2012/06/18	71.67%	Dorothy Berg & Joyce Werner(99ers)
2012/05/16	78.89%	Jason Cannell & Jerry Oswald(NLMers)
2012/05/09	71.11%	Don Randall & Dan Liu(NLMers)
2012/05/02	76.11%	Bob Bye & Jason Cannell(NLMers)
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



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell

#89 - CONJURING TRICK

♠ Q2
♥ QJT6
♦ A432
♣ A62

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ Pass 4♥? All Pass

♠ J98	<i>North</i>	♠ K76543
♥ A	<i>West</i>	♥ 852
♦ T987	<i>East</i>	♦ J6
♣ KQT87	<i>Declarer</i>	♣ J9
♠ AT		
♥ K9743		
♦ KQ5		
♣ 543		

North took the direct route to game, but there are better ways to bid that hand. Most tournament players use 1♥-4♥ as a preempt (5+ Hearts and a weak hand) and use a conventional 2NT bid for the actual North hand, thereby giving N-S the opportunity to investigate slam if appropriate (which in this case it is not!)

Against 4♥ West led the ♣K, won by Dummy's Ace. A trump was lost to West's Ace, then West cashed two Clubs and exited safely with a Diamond. At this point Declarer could

count nine top tricks. Do you see how she might conjure up a tenth?

Before Declarer commences any conjuring it will occur to her that West has shown up with ♥A and the ♣KQ, and that if he also held the ♠K he would no doubt have been heard from in the bidding. So, East has the ♠K.

At first glance it might appear that the only chance is for the Diamonds to break 3-3. What if one defender has four (or more) Diamonds *and* the ♠K? In that case could Declarer rattle off all her trumps and save the day with a squeeze? Not if it is East who holds the vital cards, because he will

be discarding last and will pitch whatever suit Dummy pitches. So that squeeze won't work. And we know that West cannot hold the ♠K so clearly the squeeze won't work against him.

Does that mean that we are back to relying on 3-3 Diamonds? Actually, no! Declarer has a clever resource available. She leads the ♠Q from Dummy, East must cover, and Declarer's Ace wins the trick. Now the all-important Spade card is the Jack and there *is* room in West's hand for that. So, Declarer now runs the Hearts, hoping that Diamonds are 3-3 or that West is squeezed in Spades and Diamonds. 10 tricks in exotic fashion (that play is known as a Transfer Squeeze, so named because it transfers the Spade guard from one defender to the other).

#90 - RISK AND REWARD

	♠ A ♥ Q63 ♦ AQJ96 ♣ K863	
♠ JT982 ♥ K98 ♦ 54 ♣ QT4	North West East Declarer	♠ Q73 ♥ JT7 ♦ KT7 ♣ J972
	♠ K654 ♥ A542 ♦ 832 ♣ A5	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In a team game or a money game, making the contract is all-important, and overtricks are merely a secondary consideration. But, in duplicate bridge, the method of scoring rewards overtricks and, as we'll see, that can influence the play of the hand.

First, try this 3NT in a team game, and focus entirely on making the contract. West leads ♠J, won in Dummy.

Declarer sees that four Diamond tricks will suffice to make the contract and, as a safety play against East having the singleton King, he might cash the ♦A first. That doesn't produce the King so Declarer next leads the ♦Q from Dummy, and when the dust clears, Declarer has 9 tricks. Routine stuff.

However, playing the same contract in a duplicate game, Declarer is more likely to try for an overtrick or two and, under the right circumstances, might even risk his contract in the process. As before, West leads the ♠J, won in Dummy. This time, Declarer says "Phooey!" to that safety play, and will try for five Diamond tricks. So, he crosses to the ♠A and finesses the ♦Q. But East is a devious fellow and fiendishly drops his Ten under Dummy's Queen. Now, Declarer can see 10 easy tricks in his future. He crosses to the ♥A, cashes the ♠K (otherwise it will be stranded), and runs the ♦8. But this loses to East's King, the defense runs the Spades, and it's down one in a cold contract!

Declarer's play was disastrous but, at duplicate scoring, not unreasonable. If he'd have made his overtrick he would have been rewarded with a good score. Too bad for him that the ♦K was offside, *and* East was tricky enough to duck the first Diamond, *and* Spades broke 5-3. It took three pieces of bad luck to bring about Declarer's downfall.

#91 - A HAND WITH EXTRAS

	♠ KQJ4 ♥ K632 ♦ 73 ♣ Q64	
♠ A5	North	♠ 7

♥ QJ95 ♦ KJ84 ♣ 975	<i>West East</i>	♥ AT84 ♦ 9652 ♣ K832
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ T98632 ♥ 7 ♦ AQT ♣ AJT	

South West North East
 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
 ??

Usually this column deals with play and defensive problems, but this week it's all about the bidding. Take a look at the South hand. What do you see? A hand that would open a Weak Two in Spades? A hand that would pass in first seat? Or a minimum 1♠ opening bid? Actually, it's none of the

above!

Back in the day, we needed 13 HCP to open the bidding (or 12 if we were feeling frisky), but experienced players don't just count their points, they also consider their distribution. One tool for doing that is the Rule of 20 ... we add HCP to the length of our two longest suits ... if the total is 20 or more we have an opening bid. By this measure, South scores 11+6+3, and just manages to scrape up the magic number. So, let us agree that the South hand is worth a 1♠ opening bid.

North's 3♠ showed game-invitational values, saying "Bid game if you have something extra". Does South have said extras? Some might say "No!", on the grounds that the hand has only 11 HCP, and that it barely squeaked into opening territory on the Rule of 20 basis. Maybe so, but nonetheless the South hand *does* have extras. There is that singleton Heart ... the 6th trump ... and those lovely minor-suit Tens! Extras, indeed!

So, South cheerfully accepts the game invitation, West makes his opening lead (probably the ♥Q) and Dummy is revealed. It's a pretty poor specimen, what with the useless ♥K and not much cover in the minor suits. But, even so, it is good enough. The Diamond finesse loses, but the Club finesse wins and (thanks to the all-important ♠T) there are 10 tricks!

#92 - A TRAIN TO CATCH

	♠ T8 ♥ AK ♦ T65 ♣ KQ5432	
♠ 9765 ♥ QJT6 ♦ -- ♣ JT976	<i>North</i>	♠ 432 ♥ 732 ♦ AQ87432 ♣ --
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AKQJ ♥ 9854 ♦ KJ9 ♣ A8	

N-S Vulnerable
South West North East
 3NT Pass 6NT Pass
 Pass Pass

When he bid 6NT, could North be sure that E-W wouldn't cash two Diamonds on the go? Almost. East supposedly had seven Diamonds ... if South's stopper was the Ace or King then no problem ... and if South held Qxx then West probably couldn't lead the suit!

Against 6NT West led the ♥Q. Judging from what followed, one can only assume that this was the last board of the evening and that Declarer had a train to catch. He counted nine top tricks, realized that a couple of Diamond tricks would not get him up to 12, concluded that the Clubs had better be 3-2, and announced to the assembled throng: "Making slam if the Clubs are 3-2, down one if they are 4-1". When it turned out that Clubs were actually 5-0 the protagonists negotiated a settlement of down two.

If Declarer had not been reliant on public transport and had given more thought at Trick 1 then he might have seen that the contract had chances even if Clubs misbehaved. Our question is: At Trick 2, what is the only card from Dummy which enables Declarer to make his contract? That's right,

Dummy must lead the Diamond Ten, being prepared to let it ride if East plays low. But say that East hops up with the Ace and fires back another Heart. Now, Declarer is up to 11 tricks. He takes his two Diamond tricks, then his Spades, and poor West is done for. He cannot retain control of Hearts *and* Clubs, something has to give, and a squeeze produces the 12th trick!

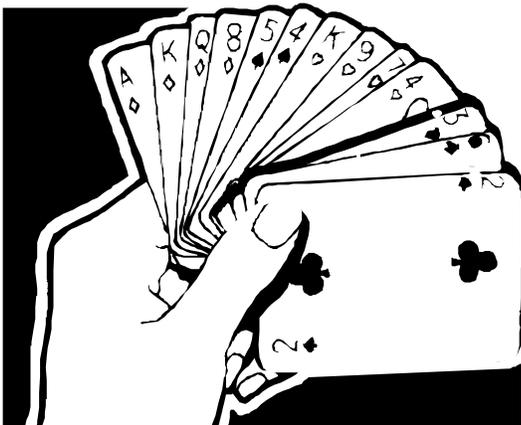
That Diamond play at Trick 2 gave Declarer an extra chance and could hardly cost. Even if the finesse improbably lost to West's singleton Queen, Declarer would still make his contract if the Clubs were 3-2.

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:





Twin City Winter Sectional
January 25-27, 2013
UAW 2488