



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 5 – May, 2013

12 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 6 – open pairs May 13 – open pairs

May 20 – open pairs May 27 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

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

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

Saturday, May 4, NO GAME – GNT in Springfield

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

Tuesday, May 7, NO GAME

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, May 15, 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

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

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

Monday, May 20, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

Wednesday, May 22, 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

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

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

Monday, May 27, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – location TBA

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

Wednesday, May 29, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, May 30, 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 4/1/2013 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

1	3,484.29	Betty Capodice
2	2,942.29	Steve Babin
***	2,557.18	Laura Addison
3	1,999.43	Zack Freehill
4	1,940.34	Mike Tomlianovich
***	1,735.61	Steve Hawthorne
5	1,694.47	Hank Hoffman
6	1,691.60	Eunice Patton
7	1,439.92	Dewey Gronau
***	1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
***	1,320.43	Ed Lombard
8	1,191.56	Stan Gutzman
9	1,107.89	Jeanne Strand
***	1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
10	1,083.42	Ivey Weaver
11	998.92	Ann Schuyler
12	986.26	Charlie Morton
13	976.85	Jean Barnett
14	847.28	Randall Motchan
15	802.75	Glen Beaman
***	792.95	Don Strand
***	780.34	Jack Kessler
16	763.81	Henrietta Crain
***	741.06	Pearl Harris
17	638.76	Cindy Moore
***	610.73	Martin Compton
18	638.40	Peg Deutsch
19	603.53	Dennis Moll
20	570.80	Ann Farnsworth
***	567.22	Ruth Wettaw
21	551.93	Dave Freehill
22	504.26	Steve Wulfers
***	481.88	Bev Upp
***	474.92	Nona Wooley
23	455.65	Lori Moore
24	409.54	Stevie Joslin
25	407.62	Bev Meginnes

Other players:

***	12,741.55	Dick Benson-LeRoy
	11,050.04	Chris Benson-LeRoy
***	4,073.45	Alan Wienman-Morton
	4,018.39	Larry Matheny-Colorado
	3,970.10	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
	3,414.24	Carl Brueckner-Champaign
	3,391.22	Ron Sholes-Springfield
	2,934.41	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
	2,712.06	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
	2,548.75	Liz Zalar-Springfield
	2,454.91	Georgia Heth-Morton
	2,481.81	Paul Lindauer-Varna
	2,412.51	Gail Moon-Tennessee
	2,251.53	Chuck Zalar-Springfield
	2,219.58	Ray Russ-Henry
	2,216.39	Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria
	2,209.52	Carole Sholes-Springfield
	2,069.22	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
	1,991.36	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
***	1,776.22	John Burdon
	1,628.28	Tim Cull
	1,515.75	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
	1,474.40	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
	1,352.00	Dennis Fitton-Sydney
	1,245.96	Jim Moon-Tennessee
	1,216.43	John Maloney-Champaign
	1,112.60	Donna Kaufman-Peoria
	993.97	Ron Emmett
	967.65	Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights
***	916.41	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
	810.08	Bev Fast-Peoria
	762.72	Phil Kenney-Eureka
	655.78	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
	646.96	Bill Carley-Peoria
	600.38	Carole Miller-Champaign
	451.74	Chris Biggs-South Carolina

*** deceased



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#1

When plan A doesn't work, it's good to have a backup. Playing this slam, I took a finesse that lost but I had a second plan to fall back on.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand 12-47	♠ K985	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ Q54	-	-	Pass	1♠
Vul N/S	♦ K987	Pass	3♦*	Pass	6♣
	♣ Q2	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 63					
♥ K8					
♦ J642					
♣ KJ943					

*limit raise

Bidding: I held this great South hand in a Swiss team event against strong opponents. My partner in the North chair jumped in diamonds to show a 4+ card spade raise with invitational (10-12) strength. Rather than give away information, I bid the slam.

Play: West led a low trump. I saw an almost certain diamond loser so it appeared I needed to find the king of hearts in the East hand. I won opening lead in my hand followed by another spade to dummy. Next, I led the queen of hearts losing to West. He exited with a heart and my chances seemed slim. It appeared the only possible winning position was to find West with length diamonds and the king of clubs. So I played the ace of clubs and here is the end position when I played my last spade:


	♦ K98	♣ Q
♦ J64		
♣ K		
♠ 2	♦ A53	

Poor West had to discard a diamond or a club and I had my slam. At the other table they bid and made the slam executing the same squeeze.

#2

While you don't want to panic after a few bad results, it may be time to make a move to correct the negative flow of IMPs or matchpoints. In this team game, I knew something was needed when this hand came up.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand 12-48	♠ AKQ7	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ AKQ6	-	2NT	Pass	3♠*
Vul N/S	♦ 765	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
	♣ K2	Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
♠ J9		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 1083		Pass			
♦ KQ1082					
♣ Q103					
	♠ 108653				
	♥ 97542				
	♦ 4				
	♣ J6				
	♠ 42				
	♥ J				
	♦ AJ93				
	♣ A98754				

*relay to 3NT (minors)

Bidding: After six hands in a team game, I didn't like our position so I decided to be aggressive with the South hand. After relaying to 3NT, my 4♣ bid was a slam try. My partner cooperated by cue bidding a heart control. With no interest in clubs, he would have signed off in 4NT. I simply bid the slam and hoped for the best.

Play: West led the king of diamonds and I liked my chances. I won the ace and needed a 3-2 club split. Both opponents followed to the ace-king of clubs so now I only needed the person with the last club to hold at least three hearts. I cashed the jack of hearts followed by a spade to dummy. I discarded diamonds on the ace and king of hearts and I was home free. I now pitched my last diamond on the queen of hearts as West ruffed.

While I thought I was aggressive, the N/S pair at the other table reached 6NT down two after a diamond lead from East. Plus scores of 1370 and 200 meant a 17 IMP swing and we were now ahead in the match.

#3

Hand evaluation usually starts with a count of the high points but you also have to consider the distribution. Here is an excellent slam with a combined count of only 24 high card points.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 12-49	♠ AJ92	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ Q63	-	-	Pass	1♠
Vul Both	♦ 5	3♦	4♦	Pass	4NT
	♣ A9872	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
♠ 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 1084		Pass			
♦ AKQ9872					
♣ J10					
	♠ KQ108765				
	♥ AKJ2				
	♦ 3				
	♣ 4				

Bidding: North cue bid the opponent's suit to show a strong spade raise. South became excited and checked for keycards (4 aces + spade king). North showed two keycards and South bid the small slam.

Play: West led the king of diamonds and declarer soon chalked up +1430. Those N/S pairs who only counted their high card points stopped in game.

#4

The Blackwood convention is quite valuable but often misused. Its primary function is to keep you out of slam when you are missing two aces. It's usually unwise to use it without a first or second control in every suit or the opponents may still have two cashing tricks.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 12-50	♠ AK7	West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ Q8	-	-	-	1♣
Vul E/W	♦ Q92	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
	♣ AKQ62	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
♠		Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
♥ K642	□	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ J7					
♣ J1098543					
	♠ 10865				
	♥ AJ1097				
	♦ 1043				
	♣ 7				
	♠ QJ9432				
	♥ 53				
	♦ AK865				
	♣				

Bidding: South opened 1♣ and North was thinking slam. North's 2♣ response was a game force and his 2♠ rebid set the trump suit. After South rebid diamonds, North bid 4♣ to show a club control. This partnership's cue bids show first or second round controls so when South failed to cue bid hearts, North reluctantly stopped in game.

Play: With the auction providing a road map, West led a low heart to his partner's ace and won the return with the king. South soon claimed the remainder of the tricks and was relieved they had stopped in game. When he looked at the other scores he saw only one other pair stopped below slam. The horrible news was that everyone who bid the slam made it. It turns out lacking a first or second round control in hearts did not prevent others from bidding Blackwood and blasting into the slam. The West players were unwilling to underlead their king of hearts and that was that.

Sometimes being correct is not enough satisfaction. North-South each let out a sigh and took out the cards from the next board.



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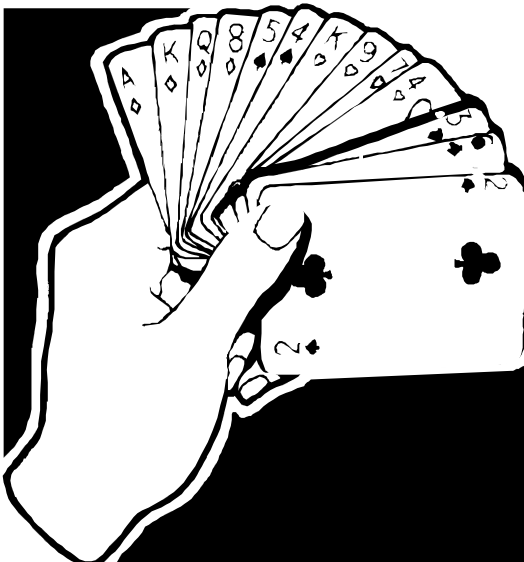
Special note: Bridge camp scholarships are available from CIBA – unit 208. Ask Mike Tomlianovich for details.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2013 only
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2013/03/30	70.37%	Ann Schuyler & Camilla Rabjohns
2013/03/07	72.22%	Cindy Moore & Eunice Patton
2013/02/20	74.44%	Carroll Kinnaman & Jerry Oswald (NLMers)
2013/01/30	70.00%	Joyce Werner & Dorothy Berg(NLMers)
2013/01/23	74.31%	Mary Tweedie & Sallie Boge(NLMers)
2013/01/23	70.83%	Carroll Kinnaman & Jerry Oswald(NLMers)
2013/01/09	79.63%	Lou Savage & Joe Krause(NLMers)
2013/01/02	73.96%	Don Randall & Bob Clay(NLMers)

Upcoming tournaments:



District 8 GNT
May 4-5, 2013
Springfield Eagles Club



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#113 - TRIPLE PLAY

	♠ 8754 ♥ AK65 ♦ 9832 ♣ T	
♠ K6 ♥ QT43 ♦ J ♣ J98764	<i>North</i>	♠ 3 ♥ J9872 ♦ AK65 ♣ K53
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AQJT92 ♥ ♦ QT74 ♣ AQ2	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

4♠ All Pass

When, as a defender, we have a trump holding such as Kx or QJx or JTxx, conventional wisdom tells us that it is frequently better not to chase after ruffs as we would have scored that trump trick naturally. Let's see how that advice works on this deal.

First Play: West ignores conventional wisdom and leads his singleton Diamond. East takes his ♦K and ♦A and gives West his ruff. Now, with only two enemy trumps remaining,

Declarer should play for the drop, and that is 10 tricks for Declarer. Actually, Declarer had a second compelling reason to play for the drop. If he were to finesse the Spade he would be playing West to have two singletons. That's not impossible, of course, but with such extreme distribution, and being non-vulnerable, he might have been heard from in the bidding, don't you think?

Second Play: Our second West decides to lead a Heart, reasoning that it would be better to win the ♠K (when Declarer finesses) and *then* try for the Diamond ruff. That way he scores *two* trump tricks. Dummy's Ace wins that opening Heart lead and, sure enough, the Spade finesse is lost to West, and the defense now scores two Diamonds and a ruff. Down one!

Third Play: That Heart was a better opening lead from West, but it was followed by some pretty atrocious play by Declarer! All he has to do is to cash both of Dummy's Hearts, pitching Diamonds, and then take the Spade finesse. Now the defense can cash their Diamonds, but Declarer can ruff the third round high. 10 tricks.

#114 – A BLOCKING PLAY

	♠ AK6 ♥ K64 ♦ J72 ♣ T984	
♠ T32 ♥ J73 ♦ AT983 ♣ A6	<i>North</i>	♠ Q9854 ♥ 9852 ♦ Q4 ♣ 32
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ J7 ♥ AQT ♦ K65 ♣ KQJ75	

E-W Vulnerable

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

Against 3NT, West starts out with the Diamond Ten, it's the standard lead from that holding (top of a so-called "interior sequence"). You are Declarer, and the questions of the day are "What's the big danger?" and "What are you going to do about it?"

You have enough tricks once the enemy's ♣A is out of the way. If the defenders' Diamonds are 4-3 then nothing can go wrong, you cannot lose more than three Diamonds and the ♣A. So, the danger is a 5-2 Diamond split, and you have a make-or-break play at Trick 1.

Pretending that you haven't already peeked at the E-W hands, what 5-card Diamond holdings could West have led from? One possibility is T9xxx, in which case you are safe whatever happens. A second possibility is QT9xx, in which case East will win his Ace and return a Diamond, after which the contract will depend on the whereabouts of the ♣A ... if it's in the hand with long Diamonds you are down ... if not, then you make your contract (with an overtrick).

In both the above cases it doesn't matter what you do, the lie of the cards will determine your success or failure. But now consider what to do if West has led from AT9xx. Low from Dummy, low from East, what do you play? You could duck, praying that the ♣A is with the short Diamonds. But the correct play is to win the first trick with the King. Now the Diamonds are blocked! When the defense gets in with the ♣A, their Diamonds are all winners but they cannot be untangled. So, the winning plays at Trick 1 are low from Dummy and the King from hand.

P.S. There is another possible West holding. He might have led from AQT9x, in which case Declarer may have a second stopper by playing Dummy's Jack at Trick 1. But that play also requires West to hold the ♣A. The odds are better that West has QT9xx than that he has AQT9x and the ♣A.

#115 – WHICH FINESSE?

	♠ A6432 ♥ 832 ♦ 642 ♣ T6	
♠ KJ87 ♥ K65 ♦ T98 ♣ J72	North West East Declarer	♠ QT95 ♥ 7 ♦ 753 ♣ K9843
	♠ ♥ AQJT94 ♦ AKQJ ♣ AQ5	

When this deal was played in a team match, both Souths charged into 6♥ with little or no encouragement from North. Now, you have probably noticed that Dummy is alarmingly short of entries. So you might think that at Table 1, where West led a helpful Spade, Declarer would be in rather better shape than at Table 2 where West led a distinctly unhelpful Diamond. But, in fact, 6♥ went down at Table 1 and made at Table 2!

At Table 1, Dummy's ♠A won the first trick and Declarer pitched a Club loser. Seeing 12 easy tricks if the ♥K was onside, Declarer ran the ♥8, but was down when West took his King and returned a trump. Declarer had blundered grievously, as there was now no way to avoid a Club loser. Instead of giving himself just one chance to finesse he could have given himself two chances. Yes, on the opening Spade lead Declarer must not throw a Club loser, instead it is a Diamond winner that has to go (the Ace would be the ostentatious choice, of course). Now Declarer takes the Club finesse and, if it loses, then he can get to the board with a Club ruff and try the Heart finesse. Of course, when the Club finesse works, then Declarer cashes the ♠A, ruffs a Club (with the Eight, to be safe), and tries for an overtrick with a Heart finesse.

At Table 2, after the more challenging Diamond lead, Declarer's play at Trick 2 was the clever ♥Q, trying to force an entry to Dummy. But West was just as clever and ducked! Declarer persisted with the ♥J and West brilliantly ducked that one too! But Declarer would not be denied and, leaving West's remaining trump at large, she now played Diamond winners. Whatever West did on the last Diamond, Declarer would score 12 tricks! Great defense, great declaring!



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!!

#116 – THE ART OF CONCEALMENT

	♠ T32 ♥ J43 ♦ AK62 ♣ AT9	
♠ K74 ♥ T982 ♦ QT5 ♣ 432	North West East Declarer	♠ AJ95 ♥ 765 ♦ 9843 ♣ K5
	♠ Q86 ♥ AKQ ♦ J7 ♣ QJ876	

South opens 1NT, which nowadays usually shows 15-17 HCP. North bids 3NT, and West leads the ♥T.

Declarer can see enough tricks once the ♠K is out of the way, but those Spades look somewhat fragile. We have two questions. Firstly, how do you play the Hearts? Secondly, how do you play the Clubs? These questions are not misprints, we'd really like to know!

Declarer can see that the opening Heart lead is from T9xx or some such holding. But, from East's seat, it might well be from holdings such as AT9x or KT9x or QT9x. How can Declarer muddy the waters and create some doubt in East's mind? She could routinely play low from Dummy, as most

would, but the play most likely to cause confusion is surely the Jack! Declarer then wins the trick with the Ace, and East will say to himself: "I've seen this movie before. Declarer was hoping that I had the Queen and would cover. Clearly she is laying a false trail and has AK doubleton in the suit"

Now Declarer plays on Clubs. If she leads the ♣Q then that pretty much advertises the situation. So, instead, she runs the less informative Jack, and when East wins the King he'll have some thinking to do. Declarer has a maximum of three points in Diamonds, and appears to have seven points in Hearts. The Club situation won't be clear, and East might visualize Declarer's hand as: ♠KQx, ♥AK, ♦QTxx, ♣J87x, or something similar. If so then a Heart continuation beats the contract.

A less devious Declarer will play a low Heart from Dummy on Trick 1, and will run the ♣Q at Trick 2. When East wins his King, he'll have more clues, and is more likely to diagnose Declarer's Spade weakness. If he does, he will be sure to switch to the Spade *Jack*, a so-called "surrounding play" which allows the defense to grab four Spade tricks, setting the contract.

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