



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 11 – November, 2013

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 4 – open pairs      November 11 – open pairs

November 18 – open pairs      November 25 – open pairs

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

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule:**

Saturday, November 2, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, November 4, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, November 6, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Knights of Columbus

Saturday, November 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, November 11, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, November 13, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 14, 11:45AM – open pairs– Knights of Columbus

Saturday, November 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, November 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, November 20, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 21, 11:45AM – open pairs– Knights of Columbus

Saturday, November 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, November 25, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, November 27, 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Knights of Columbus

Thursday, November 28, NO GAME – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Saturday, November 30, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

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.

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 10/1/2013 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

|     |          |                    |
|-----|----------|--------------------|
| 1   | 3,506.91 | Betty Capodice     |
| 2   | 3,035.65 | Steve Babin        |
| *** | 2,557.18 | Laura Addison      |
| 3   | 2,089.37 | Zack Freehill      |
| 4   | 1,983.38 | Mike Tomlianovich  |
| 5   | 1,801.76 | Eunice Patton      |
| *** | 1,735.61 | Steve Hawthorne    |
| 6   | 1,731.08 | Hank Hoffman       |
| 7   | 1,483.35 | Dewey Gronau       |
| *** | 1,398.35 | Sharad Chitgopekar |
| *** | 1,320.43 | Ed Lombard         |
| 8   | 1,224.24 | Stan Gutzman       |
| 9   | 1,127.09 | Ann Schuyler       |
| 10  | 1,114.23 | Jeanne Strand      |
| *** | 1,091.94 | Marian Edmunds     |
| 11  | 1,086.17 | Ivey Weaver        |
| 12  | 1,034.07 | Charlie Morton     |
| 13  | 1,026.04 | Ron Emmett         |
| 14  | 982.55   | Jean Barnett       |
| 15  | 865.88   | Randall Motchan    |
| 16  | 852.21   | Cindy Moore        |
| 17  | 807.40   | Glen Beaman        |
| *** | 792.95   | Don Strand         |
| *** | 780.34   | Jack Kessler       |
| 18  | 766.47   | Henrietta Crain    |
| *** | 741.06   | Pearl Harris       |
| 19  | 648.88   | Peg Deutsch        |
| 20  | 622.88   | Dennis Moll        |
| 21  | 619.72   | Lori Moore         |
| *** | 610.73   | Martin Compton     |
| 22  | 579.11   | Dave Freehill      |
| *** | 570.80   | Ann Farnsworth     |
| *** | 567.22   | Ruth Wettaw        |
| 23  | 536.14   | Steve Wulfers      |
| 24  | 488.57   | JoAnn Schroeder    |
| *** | 481.88   | Bev Upp            |
| *** | 474.92   | Nona Wooley        |
| 25  | 433.91   | Stevie Joslin      |

\*\*\* deceased

**Other players:**

|     |           |                                 |
|-----|-----------|---------------------------------|
| *** | 12,741.55 | Dick Benson-LeRoy               |
|     | 11,123.07 | Chris Benson-LeRoy              |
|     | 4,098.98  | Larry Matheny-Colorado          |
| *** | 4,073.45  | Alan Wienman-Morton             |
|     | 3,981.99  | Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap             |
|     | 3,529.26  | Carl Brueckner-Champaign        |
|     | 3,490.99  | Ron Sholes-Springfield          |
|     | 2,947.11  | Kish Devaraj-Georgia            |
|     | 2,630.38  | Liz Zalar-Springfield           |
|     | 2,556.01  | Paul Lindauer-Varna             |
|     | 2,469.84  | Georgia Heth-Morton             |
|     | 2,412.51  | Gail Moon-Tennessee             |
|     | 2,265.17  | Chuck Zalar-Springfield         |
|     | 2,281.50  | Carole Sholes-Springfield       |
|     | 2,271.15  | Ray Russ-Henry                  |
|     | 2,151.88  | Joanne Glazebrook-Peoria        |
|     | 2,123.53  | Margaret Hansell-Champaign      |
|     | 2,031.41  | Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign     |
|     | 1,837.39  | Mary Allen-Peoria               |
| *** | 1,776.22  | John Burdon                     |
|     | 1,679.94  | Tim Cull-Springfield            |
|     | 1,523.21  | Bobbie Straker-Pekin            |
|     | 1,503.72  | Marilyn Stickel-Lacon           |
|     | 1,403.38  | Dennis Fitton-Champaign         |
|     | 1,261.57  | John Maloney-Champaign          |
|     | 1,245.96  | Jim Moon-Tennessee              |
|     | 1,005.07  | Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights |
| *** | 916.41    | Floyd Sherry-Eureka             |
|     | 935.87    | Melissa Fitton-Champaign        |
|     | 793.23    | Phil Kenney-Eureka              |
|     | 721.92    | Bill Bulfer-East Peoria         |
|     | 674.69    | Doug Steele-Seymour             |
|     | 617.41    | Carole Miller-Champaign         |
|     | 452.68    | Chris Biggs-South Carolina      |



# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

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#1

There are several bidding conventions and agreements to help us arrive at the best contracts. The Splinter bid is one of those and this hand shows how effective it can be.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

|         |           |      |       |      |       |
|---------|-----------|------|-------|------|-------|
| #13-18  | ♠ AKQ86   | West | North | East | South |
| Dir W   | ♥ Q42     | Pass | 2♣    | Pass | 2♦    |
| Vul N/S | ♦ AKJ8    | Pass | 2♠    | Pass | 3♣    |
|         | ♣ A       | Pass | 3♦    | Pass | 4♥*   |
| ♠ 972   | □         | Pass | 6♦    | Pass | Pass  |
| ♥ K763  |           | Pass |       |      |       |
| ♦ 9432  |           | Pass |       |      |       |
| ♣ Q6    |           |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♠ J1043   |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♥ AJ985   |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♦         |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♣ J532    |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♠ 5       |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♥ 10      |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♦ Q10765  |      |       |      |       |
|         | ♣ K109874 |      |       |      |       |

\*splinter

**Bidding:** South's 2♦ response showed values without a strong suit. South next bid 3♣ and was excited when his partner revealed a diamond suit. After some thought, South jumped to 4♥ to show good diamond support and heart shortness. North bid the slam.

**Play:** West led a heart to his partner's ace. East continued with a heart and declarer ruffed. Declarer decided to establish dummy so he led a diamond to the ace. He was disappointed when East discarded a heart but continued with his plan. He played the ace of spades and ruffed a spade high. Next, he led a club to dummy's king and ruffed another spade with another high trump. He continued with his king of clubs discarding dummy's last heart. Now he led his last diamond to dummy's eight and drew trumps.

The results around the room were mixed; some played in the diamond game and some suffered defeat declaring 3NT with a heart lead. The splinter bid was an excellent solution to North's bidding dilemma.

#2

A strong declarer must be familiar with many different card combinations. In this hand, declarer's play left his opponents no way to escape.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

|         |          |      |       |      |       |
|---------|----------|------|-------|------|-------|
| #13-19  | ♠ 4      | West | North | East | South |
| Dir E   | ♥ K10932 | -    | -     | Pass | 1 ♥   |
| Vul E/W | ♦ A10865 | 1 ♣  | 4 ♥   | Pass | Pass  |
|         | ♣ 85     | Pass |       |      |       |

|           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| ♣ J106532 |  | ♠ K97    |
| ♥ 5       |  | ♥ J      |
| ♦ K7      |  | ♦ Q92    |
| ♣ AKQ10   |  | ♣ J97643 |
|           |  | ♠ AQ8    |
|           |  | ♥ AQ8764 |
|           |  | ♦ J43    |
|           |  | ♣ 2      |

Bidding: N/S reached a routine 4♥ contract. The adverse vulnerability kept E/W from competing any higher.

Play: West led the ace of clubs and continued with the king which declarer ruffed. Declarer saw his contract was in no danger with only two possible diamond losers. To hold the diamond losers to one he could play West for both diamond honors, or he could try to guess who held a doubleton honor. But, he saw a better line and continued by playing the ace of spades and a spade ruff. Next he it was a heart to his hand drawing trumps followed by another spade ruff. Now he simply played the ace and a low diamond. West won the king but had only black cards to lead allowing declarer to trump in dummy and discard his diamond loser. Making the overtrick gave South a tie for top.

Note this line of play in the diamond suit works whenever there is a doubleton honor in either hand.







**Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2013 only**  
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|                   |               |   |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>2013/09/30</b> | <b>72.22%</b> | <b>Lynda Frankeberger &amp; Mary Houska(99ers)</b>  |
| <b>2013/09/18</b> | <b>70.56%</b> | <b>Sallie Boge &amp; Jason Cannell(NLMers)</b>      |
| <b>2013/09/11</b> | <b>70.00%</b> | <b>Bob Ragland &amp; Jim Swanke(NLMers)</b>         |
| <b>2013/08/26</b> | <b>71.25%</b> | <b>Doug Lamb &amp; John Ford(99ers)</b>             |
| <b>2013/08/24</b> | <b>70.00%</b> | <b>Stan Gutzman &amp; John Maloney</b>              |
| <b>2013/08/01</b> | <b>73.15%</b> | <b>Cindy Moore &amp; Eunice Patton</b>              |
| <b>2013/05/29</b> | <b>75.00%</b> | <b>Bob Ragland &amp; Jim Swanke(NLMers)</b>         |
| <b>2013/05/06</b> | <b>86.81%</b> | <b>Vi Kothe &amp; Lou Savage(99ers)</b>             |
| <b>2013/03/30</b> | <b>70.37%</b> | <b>Ann Schuyler &amp; Camilla Rabjohns</b>          |
| <b>2013/03/07</b> | <b>72.22%</b> | <b>Cindy Moore &amp; Eunice Patton</b>              |
| <b>2013/02/20</b> | <b>74.44%</b> | <b>Carroll Kinnaman &amp; Jerry Oswald (NLMers)</b> |
| <b>2013/01/30</b> | <b>70.00%</b> | <b>Joyce Werner &amp; Dorothy Berg(NLMers)</b>      |
| <b>2013/01/23</b> | <b>74.31%</b> | <b>Mary Tweedie &amp; Sallie Boge(NLMers)</b>       |
| <b>2013/01/23</b> | <b>70.83%</b> | <b>Carroll Kinnaman &amp; Jerry Oswald(NLMers)</b>  |
| <b>2013/01/09</b> | <b>79.63%</b> | <b>Lou Savage &amp; Joe Krause(NLMers)</b>          |
| <b>2013/01/02</b> | <b>73.96%</b> | <b>Don Randall &amp; Bob Clay(NLMers)</b>           |

## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #137 – COUNT UP TO TEN

|                                   |   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|                                   | ♠ A752<br>♥ KJ2<br>♦ 62<br>♣ 6532                                     |                                   |
| ♠ QJT4<br>♥ 654<br>♦ A8<br>♣ QT87 | <i>North</i><br><br><i>West</i><br><i>East</i><br><br><i>Declarer</i> | ♠ K986<br>♥ 97<br>♦ KT973<br>♣ 94 |
|                                   | ♠ 3<br>♥ AQT83<br>♦ QJ54<br>♣ AKJ                                     |                                   |

*Both Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass

4♥ All Pass

Declarer can count eight top tricks and there are various ways by which she might attempt get that total up to ten. There's the Club finesse ... a Diamond trick or two ... a Diamond ruff or two. What is the best way of combining the chances after the ♠Q opening lead?

There is approximately 0% chance of getting two Diamond ruffs (if Declarer plays on Diamonds the defense will shift to trumps pronto) ... there is a 50% chance of the Club finesse

working ... and there is approximately a 75% chance of East holding at least one of the top two Diamonds. So playing on Diamonds is clearly a better bet for the ninth trick than is taking the Club finesse. And the 10<sup>th</sup> trick? That can come from a Diamond ruff in the short hand (we've already counted Declarer's five trumps, so taking a couple of Spade ruffs won't add to the trick total). Declarer has a plan: set up a Diamond trick, and ruff a Diamond.

That's a very fine plan but Declarer will need to be careful with the timing. After winning the opening Spade lead in Dummy, it is essential to lead a Diamond at Trick 2 to Declarer's Queen and West's Ace. West predictably shifts to a trump. That is won in Dummy, and another Diamond is led, this time won by East. Back comes another trump, but Declarer is home. She wins that trump in hand, ruffs a Diamond, returns to hand with the ♣A, draws the last trump, and has her 10 tricks.

P.S. Let's go back to the point where East wins the second round of Diamonds. Suppose that East, instead of returning a trump, continues with a third round of Diamonds. In this case, Declarer will take care to play a *low* Diamond from hand (ruffing on the board), saving her Diamond winner for later, when trumps have been drawn.

#138 - TWO WAYS TO WIN

|                                   |                                     |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                   | ♠ Q3<br>♥ J973<br>♦ K<br>♣ AKQJT7   |                                   |
| ♠ J872<br>♥ Q<br>♦ JT974<br>♣ 953 | North<br>West      East<br>Declarer | ♠ AKT964<br>♥ KT6<br>♦ 63<br>♣ 84 |
|                                   | ♠ 5<br>♥ A8542<br>♦ AQ852<br>♣ 62   |                                   |

*Both Vulnerable*

| South | West | North | East     |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
|       |      | 1♣    | 1♠       |
| 2♥    | 3♠   | 4♥    | 4♠       |
| Pass  | Pass | 5♥    | All Pass |

**Bridge bidding is not an exact science, as N-S demonstrated on this deal. They would have done well to double 4♠, but instead they pushed on to 5♥, giving E-W the opportunity to show that defense can also be inexact.**

**The defense plays Spades and Declarer ruffs the second round. Now, if only she can avoid two trump losers, she will**

**make this contract. Declarer's thought processes might go something like this:**

- East's 4♠ suggests six Spades and yet he did not preempt, so perhaps he has some values, which would have to be in Spades and Hearts.
- West's 3♠ was preemptive, showing a weak hand and typically four Spades. 3♠ was also bid when vulnerable, so perhaps West was fortified by shortness somewhere, probably in Hearts.

**Having concluded that, how will Declarer play the trump suit, hopefully for one loser, allowing her to make 11 tricks? Declarer will reason that if trumps are 2-2 then how she plays the suit does not matter too much. But, if they are 3-1, and if East has the length (as seems likely), then Declarer might as well lead the ♥J from Dummy on the first round of the suit. One of two good things might happen:**

- West might have the singleton Ten, holding the trump losers to one.
- East might hold ♥KT6 or ♥QT6, and make the (big) mistake of covering the Jack. Mirth and merriment will be politely suppressed when this crashes West's singleton honor, handing Declarer an impossible contract.

**The moral of the story is that, when we get to a crummy contract, it pays to give the opponents the chance to find a crummy defense.**

#139 – TRUMP CONTROL

|                                   |   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|                                   | ♠ QT9<br>♥ QT874<br>♦ 9<br>♣ A863         |                                   |
| ♠ 7643<br>♥ K65<br>♦ QJT7<br>♣ 74 | North<br><br>West<br>East<br><br>Declarer | ♠ 85<br>♥ AJ3<br>♦ AK8652<br>♣ 52 |
|                                   | ♠ AKJ2<br>♥ 92<br>♦ 43<br>♣ KQJT9         |                                   |

Both Vulnerable

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
|       |      |       | 1♦   |
| 2♣    | 2♦   | 3♣    | 3♦   |
| 3♠    | Pass | 4♠    | Pass |
| Pass  | Pass |       |      |

N-S stretch to reach 4♠ here. Even though it is a 4-3 fit, it's the only game with a chance of making. As is often the case with 4-3 fits, the success of the contract depends on trump control. Which side will prevail?

One (rather feeble) line of defense would be to play two rounds of Diamonds, forcing Dummy to ruff. But that gets

the defense nowhere, Declarer simply draws trumps and runs the Clubs. That is 10 tricks, made up of nine black suit winners plus that Diamond ruff in the short hand.

Forcing Dummy to ruff a Diamond was not a good defensive strategy, for two reasons. Firstly, the ruff in the short hand added to Declarer's trick total, and secondly it did nothing to threaten Declarer's trump control. East missed his chance to defeat the contract, do you see it? That's right, after winning the opening Diamond lead, East must force *Declarer* to ruff. A ruff in the long hand does not add to Declarer's trick total, but it does threaten her trump control. So, at Trick 2, East shifts to a *low* Heart. West wins that and fires back another Heart. Then the third round of Hearts does in Declarer. Declarer must ruff that in her hand, but now has fewer trumps than West. Goodbye trump control, hello down one!

Declarer can count herself a little bit unlucky if she goes down on this deal. The defense had to find the right plan, *and* the ♥J had to be with East, *and* the E-W trumps had to be 4-2 (if they had been 3-3 then Declarer could have withstood the ruff in her hand).

#140 – LOUD AND CLEAR

|                                   |   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|                                   | ♠ T8<br>♥ T854<br>♦ T953<br>♣ QJ5         |                                   |
| ♠ 542<br>♥ 3<br>♦ AQJ742<br>♣ 732 | North<br><br>West<br>East<br><br>Declarer | ♠ 97<br>♥ AJ962<br>♦ K6<br>♣ T864 |
|                                   | ♠ AKQJ63<br>♥ KQ7<br>♦ 8<br>♣ AK9         |                                   |

*E-W Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

2♣ 2♦ Pass Pass

4♠ All Pass

2♣ was artificial and strong, and South wound up in 4♠. Looking at all four hands it is not difficult to see how E-W can defeat this contract, but how many E-W pairs would find the winning defense at the table?

On opening lead, West did not see much future in Diamonds, so he went after a ruff or two by leading his singleton Heart.

East won her Ace and Declarer, being a shifty sort of fellow, dropped the King in an attempt to muddy the waters for the defense. That gave East pause for thought, as she wondered whether West had led from ♥Q73. Eventually East decided that Declarer's King was probably flim-flam, so she returned a Heart for West to ruff. But *which* Heart?

The winning defense after the ruff was, of course, for West to underlead his ♦A, getting East in to provide a second ruff. But how was West to know that East's entry was the ♦K and not the ♣A? The answer was in the Heart led back by East at Trick 2. A low Heart would say "Return a Club" (the lower-ranking suit), and a high Heart would say "Return a Diamond" (the higher-ranking suit, which is Diamonds as trumps are not part of this equation). A middling Heart would indicate no preference.

So, should East return the Heart Nine? No, the Nine might be ambiguous, better to hit Partner over the head with a signal which is as loud and clear as possible. That would be the Jack! West ruffs that and there is no mistaking East's intentions. The ♦A is underled to East's King, then a second ruff, and Declarer is 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:**



**Twin City Winter Sectional  
January 24-26, 2014  
UAW 2488 – Bloomington, IL**

