



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 12 – December, 2013

12 pages



December Events



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

December 2 – open pairs

December 9 – open pairs

December 16 – open pairs

December 23 – Club championship open pairs Christmas party

December 30 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, December 2, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

Saturday, December 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

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

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

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

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

Monday, December 16, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

Thursday, December 19, 11:45AM – club championship open pairs– Knights of Columbus

Saturday, December 21, 11:45AM – club championship open pairs – Westminster

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

Wednesday, December 25, NO GAME – MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

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

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

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 11/6/2013 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

1	3,518.81	Betty Capodice
2	3,057.99	Steve Babin
***	2,557.18	Laura Addison
3	2,117.16	Zack Freehill
4	1,990.47	Mike Tomlianovich
5	1,831.13	Eunice Patton
6	1,743.96	Hank Hoffman
***	1,735.61	Steve Hawthorne
7	1,486.50	Dewey Gronau
***	1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
***	1,320.43	Ed Lombard
8	1,228.51	Stan Gutzman
9	1,189.76	Ann Schuyler
10	1,123.64	Jeanne Strand
***	1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
11	1,091.55	Ivey Weaver
12	1,041.67	Charlie Morton
13	1,031.57	Ron Emmett
14	986.30	Jean Barnett
15	905.06	Cindy Moore
16	866.48	Randall Motchan
17	807.40	Glen Beaman
***	792.95	Don Strand
***	780.34	Jack Kessler
18	767.57	Henrietta Crain
***	741.06	Pearl Harris
19	690.76	Lori Moore
20	652.13	Peg Deutsch
21	633.35	Dennis Moll
***	610.73	Martin Compton
22	579.11	Dave Freehill
***	570.80	Ann Farnsworth
***	567.22	Ruth Wettaw
23	545.31	Steve Wulfers
24	500.58	JoAnn Schroeder
***	481.88	Bev Upp
***	474.92	Nona Wooley
25	435.93	Stevie Joslin

Other players:

***	12,741.55	Dick Benson-LeRoy
	11,157.37	Chris Benson-LeRoy
	4,112.36	Larry Matheny-Colorado
***	4,073.45	Alan Wienman-Morton
	3,983.53	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
	3,543.18	Carl Brueckner-Champaign
	3,510.49	Ron Sholes-Springfield
	2,958.38	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
	2,641.39	Liz Zalar-Springfield
	2,560.38	Paul Lindauer-Varna
	2,470.08	Georgia Heth-Morton
	2,412.51	Gail Moon-Tennessee
	2,290.83	Ray Russ-Henry
	2,287.37	Carole Sholes-Springfield
	2,271.29	Chuck Zalar-Springfield
	2,153.86	Joanne Glazebrook
	2,136.17	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
	2,035.09	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
	1,880.04	Mary Allen-Peoria
***	1,776.22	John Burdon
	1,679.94	Tim Cull-Springfield
	1,523.21	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
	1,506.48	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
	1,419.21	Dennis Fitton-Champaign
	1,276.78	John Maloney-Champaign
	1,245.96	Jim Moon-Tennessee
	1,029.25	Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights
***	916.41	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
	946.13	Melissa Fitton-Champaign
	796.71	Phil Kenney-Eureka
	728.28	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
	678.61	Doug Steele-Seymour
	619.78	Carole Miller-Champaign
	452.68	Chris Biggs-South Carolina

*** deceased



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#1

Hands with wild distribution are often hard to bid. It helps when you have a good partner who knows how to evaluate his hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-22	♠ AKQ75	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ 98	-	-	Pass	1♥
Vul N/S	♦ Q10942	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
	♣ 10	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
♠ 10986	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
♥ KQ		Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
♦ K86		Pass			
♣ 9872		Pass			
	♠ J43				
	♥ 42				
	♦ AJ753				
	♣ J54				
	♠ 4				
	♥ AJ107653				
	♦				
	♣ AKQ63				

Bidding: Sitting South I liked my strong two-suiter and made a jump shift to force to game. My partner wanted to hear more and then suggested 3NT. To show a more distributional hand, I bid my club suit again. My partner recognized the strength of his singleton club along with two trumps and bid the slam.

Play: West led a low diamond which I trumped. Needing trumps to be either 2-2 or one of the honors to be singleton, I continued with ace and another heart. I was later able to discard two clubs on the good spades for twelve tricks.

#2

Here is a hand that requires exact card play to succeed. If declarer had played even one round of trumps before executing his plan, he would have failed.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-23	♠ KQ108764	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ 7	-	-	Pass	1 ♣
Vul N/S	♦ AQ8	Pass	2NT*	3 ♣	Pass
	♣ K10	5 ♣	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
♠ 2		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ K943					
♦ J43					
♣ Q9874					



♠ J1052
♥ K105
♦ K105
♣ AJ6532

♠ AJ953
♥ AQ86
♦ 9762
♣

*Jacoby raise

Bidding: South started with a simple 1 ♣ and North made a forcing spade raise. East got involved with a club bid and West jumped to the five-level to exert more pressure. North took the push to 5 ♣ and South decided his club void was worth a try for slam.

Play: West led a low club to the jack and declarer ruffed. To make this declarer must eliminate hearts and clubs and endplay East. It must be ace of hearts, ruff a heart, ruff a club, ruff a heart, spade to your hand, ruff the last heart, and a spade back to your hand. Here is the ending:

	♠K8	♦AQ8	
♦J43			♦K105
♣Q9			♣J6
	♠9	♦9762	

Declarer now leads a low diamond and covers whatever card West plays. East wins but must return a diamond or allow declarer to ruff in his hand and discard a diamond from dummy. An opening spade or diamond lead will defeat the hand. It is cold when played from the North hand.

#3

This hand shows how important it is to use your entries to each hand wisely.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-24	♠ 9632	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ 986	-	Pass	Pass	2NT
Vul None	♦ AQ10	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
	♣ 863	Pass			

♠ Q104		♠ KJ85
♥ QJ72		♥ 103
♦ 9753		♦ 642
♣ 54		♣ A1097



♠ A7
♥ AK54
♦ KJ8
♣ KQJ2

Bidding: North-South had a routine auction to game.


Play: West led the deuce of hearts and declarer stopped to count his tricks. The number came up to only six (one spade, two hearts, and three diamonds) so he needed to bring in three club tricks. Without much thought, he won the heart lead and hoping for a 3-3 club break, played the king of clubs. East won the ace and returned a heart leaving declarer with only eight tricks.

Declarer had three entries to dummy so he should have led a diamond to the ten followed by a low club. He can enter dummy two more times to lead clubs and will end with three club tricks and make his contract.

#4

The promotion of a lower spot into a winner is a play often overlooked. In this hand the nine was the hero for the defense.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

#13-25	♠ 54	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ AQ102	-	-	Pass	1 ♠
Vul None	♦ AK1052	Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
	♣ 72	Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
♠ AQ82		Pass			
♥ J					
♦ 97643					
♣ 1093					
	♠ 7				
	♥ K97				
	♦ QJ8				
	♣ QJ8654				
	♠ KJ10963				
	♥ 86543				
	♦				
	♣ AK				

Bidding: North-South had a routine auction to game.

Play: West led the ten of clubs to declarer's ace. Next, declarer led a heart to the jack, queen, and king. East made the obvious shift to his singleton spade and West won the queen and ace. A third spade promoted East's nine of heart into the setting trick.

Notice it will not help declarer to play ace and queen of hearts instead of finessing. East will win the king and the nine of heart will again be promoted. The same contract and result was achieved at the other table.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2013 only
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2013/11/23	70.00%	Steve Wulfers & Randall Motchan
2013/11/11	71.67%	Margaret Wolf & Sue McGroarty(99ers)
2013/09/30	72.22%	Lynda Frankeberger & Mary Houska(99ers)
2013/09/18	70.56%	Sallie Boge & Jason Cannell(NLMers)
2013/09/11	70.00%	Bob Ragland & Jim Swanke(NLMers)
2013/08/26	71.25%	Doug Lamb & John Ford(99ers)
2013/08/24	70.00%	Stan Gutzman & John Maloney
2013/08/01	73.15%	Cindy Moore & Eunice Patton
2013/05/29	75.00%	Bob Ragland & Jim Swanke(NLMers)
2013/05/06	86.81%	Vi Kothe & Lou Savage(99ers)
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)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#141 – BACKING THE FAVORITE

	♠ Q4 ♥ K7 ♦ QJ7 ♣ KJT852	
♠ 5 ♥ 832 ♦ 986432 ♣ Q76	North West East Declarer	♠ J9876 ♥ T654 ♦ A ♣ 943
	♠ AKT32 ♥ AQJ9 ♦ KT5 ♣ A	

Both Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

South wastes little time in reaching 6NT, West leads the Diamond Nine and, when Dummy goes down, Declarer can see just 11 top tricks. How would you go about getting the 12th trick?

One possibility is that one or other of the defenders has the doubleton ♣Q. If that doesn't work then you will have to fall

back on the Spades, and that's a suit which offers you a choice ... either play the Spades from the top, hoping that the Jack comes down in three rounds ... or cash the Queen and finesse the Ten. If you look at the Spade suit in isolation, it's a close call as to which line is better (playing for the drop is a slight favorite). But, as the play of the hand develops, watch how the odds change.

East wins that opening Diamond and a Heart is returned. You cash the remaining Hearts, then the ♣A, ♦K, ♦Q, and ♣K. The ♣Q does not fall on the play of the Clubs, so now it all comes down to the Spade suit. Is playing for the drop of the Jack still the slight favorite? Not at all! East showed up with one Diamond and four Hearts, and pitched a Spade and a Club when you played the Diamonds. That means he must have started out with three or four Clubs, so his original distribution must have been 5=4=1=3 or 4=4=1=4, there are no other possibilities. What does that tell us? That East started with more Spades than West and is therefore more likely to have the Jack. So the percentage pendulum has swung in favor of taking the Spade finesse. 12 tricks for those who did a little counting.

#142 - A MATTER OF ENTRIES

	♠ Q ♥ QJT95 ♦ A642 ♣ 865	
♠ KT9543 ♥ 862 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ2	North West East Declarer	♠ 876 ♥ K74 ♦ QJT8 ♣ Q74
	♠ AJ2 ♥ A3 ♦ K753 ♣ AT93	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	2♠	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West's frisky 2♠ overcall is brushed aside and South becomes Declarer in 3NT. West leads the Spade Ten, won in Dummy. There's a trap for the unwary on this deal, and today's Declarer fell right into it. But our readers won't, will they?

Dummy's ♠Q won the opening lead and Declarer could see that it was plain sailing to at least nine tricks, his minimum haul being two Spades, four Hearts, two Diamonds and a Club. Never one to turn up his nose at an overtrick or two, Declarer ran the ♥Q at Trick 2. It seemed like good news when that finesse won, but in fact Declarer had just bungled the contract. He crossed to the ♥A and, when the King did not fall he needed two entries to the board, one to knock out the ♥K, the other to enjoy the established Hearts. Alas, he had only one such entry, and was destined for an ignominious down two. Yes, the winning line was simple enough, Declarer must play the ♥A at Trick 2, then a low Heart to the board.

Now, let's replay the hand with the Heart King and Eight exchanged between the E-W hands. Let's say that, as before, Declarer goofs mightily by running the ♥Q at Trick 2. West must duck the trick! If West makes the mistake of grabbing his King then Declarer's misplay will go unpunished.

#143 – STRANGER THAN FICTION

	♠ A ♥ KQ42 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AJT32	
♠ KQT954 ♥ J5 ♦ 765 ♣ KQ	North West East Declarer	♠ 32 ♥ 9873 ♦ T ♣ 987654
	♠ J876 ♥ AT6 ♦ KQ9842 ♣	

Both Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
		1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Yes, it is true, some newspaper hands are works of fiction, and never actually happened. Others are factual re-enactments. Which is this? It has to have happened in real life, we really couldn't make this stuff up.

The N-S auction went off the rails, thanks to conflicting views as to the meaning of the 3♠ and 4♥ bids. So, while the other N-S pairs were luxuriating in their comfy Diamond slam and its 9-card fit, our South was laboring in the 4-3 Heart slam. West led the ♠K, won in Dummy. Declarer reasoned that, with Spade length on her left, East might well have four Hearts. With unerring inaccuracy, she finessed the Heart Ten, losing to West's Jack, after which West could have beaten the contract by leading the ♠Q, setting up a trump trick for East. But West did not know that Declarer started with only three Hearts (though Declarer's Heart play might have made him suspicious). So, after winning the ♥J, West got out with a trump.

Now what? Declarer could have prayed for 3-3 Hearts, hoping to scoot home with the aid of a Club ruff. But where was the fun in that, especially when there was the chance for a delicious swindle? Instead of taking the Club ruff, Declarer drew trumps and, leaving the ♣A an orphan in Dummy, she rattled off her Diamonds. Grimly holding on to the ♣KQ, West pitched away all his Spades, hoping that East held the ♠J. Thus was Declarer's foolish contract fulfilled, with the Spade Jack and Eight taking the last two tricks and Dummy's ♣A acting as no more than a decoy. Stranger than fiction, indeed.

#144 – NICE LEAD, PARTNER!

	♠ AK865 ♥ A6 ♦ 9753 ♣ 53	
♠ J43 ♥ QJT87 ♦ QJ ♣ KT8	North West East Declarer	♠ ♥ 54 ♦ KT8642 ♣ AJ642
	♠ QT972 ♥ K932 ♦ A ♣ Q97	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	5♠	All Pass

There are other ways to bid the North hand, but our North was obviously a paid-up member of the Bid-What-You-Think-You-Can-Make Club. East's 4NT showed the minors, then North pushed on to 5♠, in this case bidding what he *hoped* they could make.

As West, what would be your choice of opening lead? Outside of the trump suit, Declarer does not appear to have

an obvious source of tricks. West has the Hearts under control and East has long minors so, with no side-suits that can be set up, it's reasonable to assume that Declarer will be relying on ruffs to bolster his trick total. That's right, an opening trump lead seems to be called for.

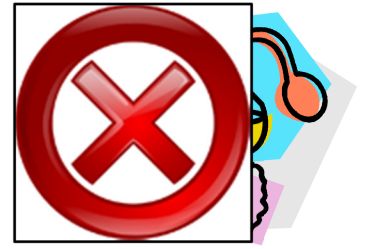
Over to Declarer. He can count five natural trump tricks, plus the ♥AK and ♦A. That's eight tricks and, to get to eleven, he needs three ruffs in one hand or the other. Of course, the trump lead and the 3-0 split put a dent in those hopes, but Declarer is not done yet. Ruffing three Diamonds in hand won't work, that will run into an overruff by West. So Declarer's plan is to ruff two Hearts and a Club in Dummy.

The opening trump lead is won in Dummy, and that is followed by ♥A, ♥K, and a Heart ruff. Now a Club is led from Dummy, East ducks and Declarer's Queen is taken by the King. Back comes another trump, won in hand by Declarer, who next ruffs his last Heart in Dummy. A second Club is led and, again, East must duck, hoping that West has the Ten, and can continue with another trump. East reasons that Declarer probably does not have the Ten (if he did, he would surely have finessed it on the first round), so she boldly ducks. West wins his Ten, and the third round of trumps is the one that dashes Declarer's hopes.

"Nice lead, Partner!"

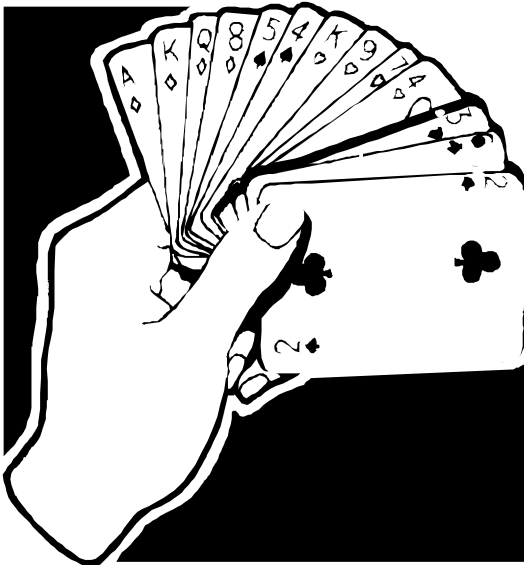
"Nice Club ducks, Partner!"

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**

