



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 3 – March, 2014

14 pages



March Events



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

March 3 – ACBL-wide seniors only open pairs March 10 – open pairs

March 17 – open pairs March 24 – open pairs March 31 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, March 1, NO GAME – TOURNAMENT in EAST PEORIA

Monday, March 3, 6:15PM – 99ers only & open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 5, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, March 6, 11:45AM – open pairs– St Patrick

Saturday, March 8, NO GAME – Mike is on the Cursillo team for the weekend

Monday, March 10, 6:15PM – 99ers only & open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 12, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, March 13, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, March 15, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 17, 6:15PM – 99ers only & open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 19, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, March 20, 11:45AM – open pairs– St Patrick

Saturday, March 22, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 24, 6:15PM – 99ers only & open pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, March 26, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, March 27, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, March 29, 11:45AM – open pairs – Westminster

Monday, March 31, 6:15PM – 99ers only & open 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 2/6/2014 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

1	3,528.19	Betty Capodice
2	3,075.73	Steve Babin
***	2,557.18	Laura Addison
3	2,144.33	Zack Freehill
4	1,995.69	Mike Tomlianovich
5	1,864.30	Eunice Patton
6	1,760.57	Hank Hoffman
***	1,735.61	Steve Hawthorne
7	1,490.11	Dewey Gronau
***	1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
***	1,320.43	Ed Lombard
8	1,231.08	Stan Gutzman
9	1,223.84	Ann Schuyler
10	1,126.20	Jeanne Strand
***	1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
11	1,093.42	Ivey Weaver
12	1,058.62	Charlie Morton
13	1,043.55	Ron Emmett
14	988.35	Jean Barnett
15	977.03	Cindy Moore
16	875.15	Randall Motchan
17	808.28	Glen Beaman
***	792.95	Don Strand
***	780.34	Jack Kessler
18	771.09	Henrietta Crain
***	741.06	Pearl Harris
19	717.35	Lori Moore
20	653.14	Peg Deutsch
21	643.14	Dennis Moll
***	610.73	Martin Compton
22	601.88	JoAnn Schroeder
***	570.80	Ann Farnsworth
***	567.22	Ruth Wettaw
23	583.20	Dave Freehill
24	561.45	Steve Wulfers
***	481.88	Bev Upp
***	474.92	Nona Wooley
25	460.30	Stevie Joslin

Other players:

***	12,741.55	Dick Benson-LeRoy
	11,217.50	Chris Benson-LeRoy
	4,150.34	Larry Matheny-Colorado
***	4,073.45	Alan Wienman-Morton
	3,987.76	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
	3,547.68	Carl Brueckner-Champaign
	3,540.95	Ron Sholes-Springfield
	2,993.50	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
	2,649.75	Liz Zalar-Springfield
	2,570.35	Paul Lindauer-Varna
	2,472.57	Georgia Heth-Morton
	2,415.18	Gail Moon-Tennessee
	2,306.64	Ray Russ-Henry
	2,295.04	Carole Sholes-Springfield
	2,275.74	Chuck Zalar-Springfield
	2,172.43	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
	2,161.37	Joanne Glazebrook
	2,052.13	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
	1,912.95	Mary Allen-Peoria
***	1,776.22	John Burdon
	1,696.50	Tim Cull-Springfield
	1,523.21	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
	1,521.63	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
	1,437.05	Dennis Fitton-Champaign
	1,313.38	John Maloney-Champaign
	1,248.63	Jim Moon-Tennessee
	1,037.00	Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights
***	916.41	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
	955.37	Melissa Maloney-Urbana
	804.35	Phil Kenney-Eureka
	743.14	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
	690.09	Doug Steele-Seymour
	624.35	Carole Miller-Champaign
	453.38	Chris Biggs-South Carolina

*** deceased



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#1

There are several card combinations that allow declarer to avoid losing extra tricks. This hand demonstrates how important these “safety” plays can be.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-34	♠ 1072	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ AK963	-	-	Pass	1♣
Vul Both	♦ A3	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
	♣ KQ9	Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
♠ J		Pass		Pass	
♥ Q4		Pass			
♦ J10952					
♣ 86543					
	♠ Q943				
	♥ J1082				
	♦ 764				
	♣ 107				
	♠ AK865				
	♥ 75				
	♦ KQ8				
	♣ AJ2				

Bidding: South’s jump rebid showed 16-18 high card points with 5-2-3-3 distribution. North wanted to show spade support but decided 6NT might be the safer contract.

Play: West led the jack of diamonds and declarer quickly saw the extra tricks would have to come from the spade suit. This seemed better than hoping the hearts divided 3-3. He won the diamond in his hand and cashed the ace of spades. When the jack dropped on his left he simply continued with a low spade to the ten losing to the queen. Declarer now could win any return and take the marked spade finesse against East’s nine to bring home the slam.

This safety play would give up an overtrick if West had been dealt the doubleton QJ of spades, but hoping for that and cashing the king of spades would have meant defeat on the actual layout. It doesn’t always pay to be greedy.

#2

The auction can still be helpful even after play has begun. This hand makes that point.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-35	♠ Q953		West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ K63		-	-	-	Pass
Vul Both	♦ QJ96		Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
	♣ K6		3 ♣	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
♠ 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♠ AJ2	Pass			
♥ J972		♥ Q1054				
♦ 754		♦ A103				
♣ A9852		♣ QJ4				
	♠ K10876					
	♥ A8					
	♦ K82					
	♣ 1073					

Bidding: West's 3 ♣ bid was a weak raise and North competed to 3 ♠ to end the auction.


Play: West led the ace of clubs and was disappointed to find the king in dummy. He shifted to a low heart and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. He saw only three certain losers (1 spade, 1 diamond, and 1 club) so the contract was not in danger. To avoid a second spade loser he needed to find the jack. The auction gave him the answer. West's preemptive raise promised at least five clubs so that left East with only three. East must hold three spades for with only two he would have eight red cards and would not have opened a 3-card club suit. Armed with this knowledge, at trick two declarer led a low spade to the queen and ace. He won the heart return in dummy followed by a spade to the ten. He drew the last trump and conceded a diamond trick for ten tricks.

Those who played for the spades to break 2-2 were disappointed.

#3

Transfer bids have been around since the 1950's and used primarily for the major suits. Minor suit transfers are now popular and can be very useful.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-36	♣ 98		West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ 8		Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul Both	♦ J109532		Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
	♣ AQ54		Pass	3♥	Pass	3♣
♠ 642		♠ KJ53	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
♥ AK103		♥ Q9762	Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
♦ 8764		♦ Q	Pass			
♣ 63		♣ J72	Pass			
	♠ AQ107					
	♥ J54					
	♦ AK					
	♣ K1098					

*transfer to diamonds

Bidding: I was North and responded to partner's 1NT by transferring to diamonds. My partner's 3♣ bid was a "super accept" showing maximum values and a diamond fit. I now thought game was possible so I continued with 3♥ to show a singleton or void. My partner knew notrump was no longer a target and he next cue bid a spade control. I did the same in clubs and after his 4♦ bid, I signed off in game.

Play: West led the ace of hearts before shifting to a trump. The diamond queen was singleton, the spade finesse worked, and the clubs broke favorably so my partner quickly wrapped up the contract with an overtrick.


In a local game, only two pairs reached game. The minor suit transfer is a valuable tool.

#4

Entries to dummy are often rare and must be used carefully. Sometimes you even have to create your entries.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#13-37	♠ J1094	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ J86	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul Both	♦ J7	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ Q532	Pass	Pass	Pass	

♣ 6		♠ K532
♥ Q532		♥ A94
♦ A1063		♦ Q52
♣ K974		♣ J86
	♠ AQ87	
	♥ K107	
	♦ K984	
	♣ A10	

Bidding: South's opening bid ended the auction.

Play: West led the deuce of hearts to his partner's ace. Seeing there was no entry to dummy to take the spade finesse, declarer dropped his king under the ace. East continued with another heart and declarer won the third round in dummy with the jack. He continued with the jack of spades and quickly brought in four spade tricks. In his hand, declarer next exited with the ace and ten clubs. West rose with the king to cash the last heart trick. He had to exit with a diamond and declarer scored his king. Declarer ended with 7 tricks: 4 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 1 club. Those who failed to find the entry-creating play at trick one were held to six tricks.

Carl Sandburg Sectional Tournament
April 11 to 13, 2014
Community Room – Sandburg Mall
1150 W. Carl Sandburg Drive
Galesburg, Illinois

Friday, April 11, 2014

1:00 PM Open Pairs

6:00 PM Open Pairs

Stratified Events

A: Open

B: Less than 2000

C: Less than 500

Saturday, April 12, 2014

10:30 AM Open Pairs.

3:30 PM Open Pairs.

Sunday, April 13, 2014

10:30 AM Stratified Swiss Teams

Play Through, Lunch Included with entry

Entry Fees: \$9 per person Swiss Team \$22 per person
(non-ACBL members pay an additional \$3 per session)

This is fragrance free and zero tolerance event

Information and Partnerships: Ron Greek Cell (309) 472-6105

Hospitality: Judy Greek Home (309) 341-2305

Directions: Take I-74 to Exit 46 - Rte 34 toward Monmouth

In about 2 miles take the Henderson Street Exit toward south

Go south to first stoplight – Carl Sandburg Drive

Turn Right around to West Side of the Mall

Community Room Entrance through Loading Area

between Bergner's and Sears Stores

Lodging: The motels on Carl Sandburg Dr. just North of the Mall are:

Quality Inn Country Inn and Suites Fairfield Inn

309.344-5445 309.344-4444 309.344-1911

Restaurants: There is a wide variety of nearby Restaurants on Henderson Street

Sanction # 1404117



Bloomington-Normal 70% club – year 2013 only
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Offices located in Bloomington, Peoria, and Pekin
Bloomington office located at:
Eastland Medical Plaza,1505 Eastland Dr, Bloomington

2014/02/19	71.67%	Carroll Kinnaman & Jerry Oswald (NLMers)
2014/01/29	70.00%	Joyce & Bob Clay(NLMers)
2014/01/11	70.53%	Betty Capodice & Jason Cannell
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



#153 – DETECTIVE WORK

	♠ AJ7 ♥ 8542 ♦ 876 ♣ A93	
♠ Q42 ♥ QJ963 ♦ K92 ♣ Q7	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 6 ♥ K7 ♦ AQJ543 ♣ 6542
	♠ KT9853 ♥ AT ♦ T ♣ KJT8	

E-W Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

East's 2♦ was a Weak Two, showing six Diamonds and less than opening values. N-S push on to 4♠, a contract which is in danger of losing a trick in each suit. On the other hand, with a bit of sleuthing, you might even make an overtrick.

West leads a low Diamond to East's Ace, and you ruff the ♦Q continuation. Do you know who has the ♠Q? Not exactly, but you do know who is more likely to hold that card. East started with six Diamonds and West with only three. That leaves more space in the West hand for Spades, and he is therefore more likely to hold the Queen. So, you cash the ♠K, finesse the ♠J successfully, and draw the last trump with the ♠A. Now the contract is assured, but can you make an overtrick?

There wasn't much sleuthing in that Spade guess, you just had to remember the implications of the E-W bidding. But to find the ♣Q you will need to do some detective work. Before trying to guess the ♣Q, you can learn more about the hand by playing on Hearts. You cash the ♥A, and exit a Heart. Lo and behold, East plays the King on this trick and exits with the ♦J which you ruff. That's the final clue, the mystery is now solved. East has shown the ♦AQJ and the ♥K, that's 10 HCP. Also, East claims (in the bidding) to have less than opening values. So, he can hardly have the ♣Q, that would take him up to 12 HCP, which, coupled with a good 6-card suit, is an opening one-bid in anyone's book. So, you run the ♣J around, then repeat the finesse, and end up with 11 tricks.

#154 - DECISION AT TRICK ONE

♠ 32 ♥ KQ9 ♦ Q9832 ♣ A32		
♠ AKT76 ♥ JT763 ♦ 4 ♣ 76	North West East Declarer	♠ 98 ♥ 82 ♦ A765 ♣ QJ985
		♠ QJ54 ♥ A54 ♦ KJT ♣ KT4

Both Vulnerable

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

West's 2♣ was a Michaels Cue-Bid, showing 5-5 (or better) in the majors. North's 2♥ said "I have something in Hearts and a decent hand", and South took a shot at 3NT. What would you lead from the West hand? And how would you declare 3NT?

It would not be a good idea for West to lead a high Spade here. He has no entries outside the Spade suit, and playing Spades from the top would serve only to cut the communications between East and West. The best chance for getting the suit going is for West to lead his fourth-best Spade, hoping that East can profitably lead a Spade through Declarer later in the play. So, West leads the Spade Seven, East plays the Eight, and the key point in the play has already arrived. As Declarer, what would you play on this trick?

If you grab that first Spade trick with your Queen, then you must hope that *West* has the ♦A, because if East has that card he will fire back a Spade through your inadequate holding. Conversely, if you duck the first Spade, the defense will persist with Spades, knocking out your stopper. In that case, you must hope that *East* has ♦A, and that West's last Spade is therefore shut out.

So, to play the Spades correctly at Trick 1, it is necessary to deduce who has the ♦A. And the answer is? Yes, East must have it. West is marked with the ♠AK from the play at Trick 1, and can hardly have the ♦A as well. Remember, he passed originally, and would not have done so with Ace-King, Ace and 5-5 distribution. It's like they always say: "It pays to think at Trick 1, it may be too late at Trick 2"

#155 – A CLUB FINESSE

	♠ KQ952 ♥ 965 ♦ 42 ♣ AQ9	
♠ -- ♥ KT832 ♦ KJ5 ♣ JT873	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 4 ♥ QJ4 ♦ QT9863 ♣ K54
	♠ AJT8763 ♥ A7 ♦ A7 ♣ 62	

Both Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
			2♦
2♠	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The inventor of the Weak Two had in mind a better suit than East's puny specimen. As for West, he anticipated a 4♠ bid from North so he pre-sacrificed in 5♦. Undeterred, North bid 5♠ which is where South played it.

Against 5♠, West decided to lead a Diamond. The standard lead from that holding is a low Diamond, but West chose the King, expecting it to hold the trick. By retaining the lead and getting a look at Dummy, West hoped to find the best continuation. That was good thinking by West, but it came to naught when Declarer won the ♦A.

The missing trump was drawn, the finesse of the ♠Q lost to East's King, and now Declarer was saddled with an inescapable Heart loser. That was down one and N-S were left to rue that they had not "taken the money" by doubling 5♦.

Declarer was right to finesse in Clubs, but he took the wrong finesse. He has an extra chance if he finesses the Nine instead. If this loses to the Jack or the Ten, Declarer will later finesse the Queen, making 11 tricks if this works. And if the finesse of the Nine holds, or if it draws the King, then Declarer again has 11 tricks. A first-round finesse of the ♠Q works only when West has the King ... but the deep finesse works when West has the King or when West has both the ♣J and the ♣T. Two chances are better than one.

#156 – DASTARDLY DECEPTION

	♠ Q4 ♥ J93 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ 7643	
♠ K852 ♥ K862 ♦ 9 ♣ A985	North West East Declarer	♠ AT973 ♥ T75 ♦ 842 ♣ T2
	♠ J6 ♥ AQ4 ♦ KT763 ♣ KQJ	

N-S Vulnerable

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

When this was played in a team game, 3NT was reached at both tables, and both West players failed to find the lethal opening Spade lead. Instead, they led their fourth-best Heart, and we can report that one Declarer made her contract, the other didn't. Here's how.

At Table 1, the opening Heart trick went: Two, Nine, Ten, Queen. Declarer could count just seven top tricks and at

Trick 2 he played the ♣K in an attempt to set up two more. It was a futile effort, of course. West took his Ace and, not wanting to give Declarer a third Heart trick, he shifted to a Spade. Down two.

At Table 2, Declarer was more resourceful. She realized that, if she took that first trick with the ♥Q, the defense would probably find the Spade shift. So, in an attempt to muddy the waters, she squandered the ♥A! Now Declarer played a Club to West's Ace. Picturing East to have started with ♥QTx and Declarer with ♥Axx, West continued with a low Heart to East's supposed Queen. But it was Declarer who produced that card, and who promptly claimed nine tricks.

That was dastardly play by Declarer, but could West have seen through the deception? To West it seemed that Declarer might well have held something like: ♠Axx, ♥Axx, ♦Kxxx, ♣KQJ. Would Declarer not hold up in Hearts with such a hand? Not necessarily, if she did she might fall prey to a deadly Spade shift, allowing West to win his King and revert to Hearts for down one.

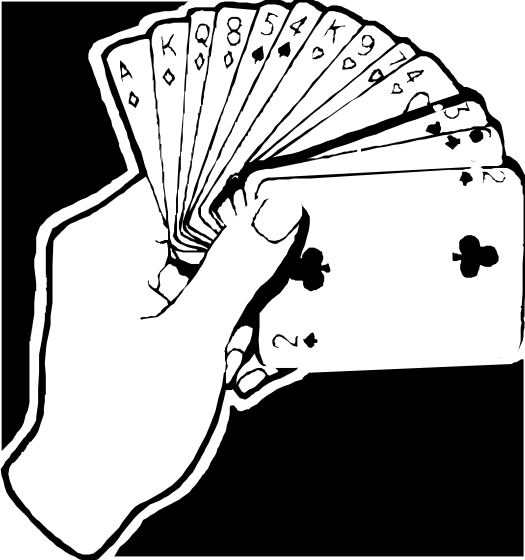
Postscript: There is a signaling device that could have saved E-W. It's the Smith Echo, whereby at Trick 2 East gives his attitude to the opening lead ... he plays a high Club to say "I like the opening lead" ... and a low Club to say "I don't" Here the message will be "I don't", so East plays the Two, after which West will presumably shift to a Spade. Or maybe not as, after the play to Trick 1, he might already have lapsed into auto-pilot mode.

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:



**Galesburg Sectional
April 11 - April 13, 2014
Sandburg Mall – Galesburg, IL**

