



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 11 – November, 2014

14 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 3 – open pairs November 10 – open pairs

November 17 – open pairs November 24 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, November 1, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, November 3, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

Saturday, November 8, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, November 10, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

Saturday, November 15, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, November 17, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

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

Saturday, November 22, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, November 24, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

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

Thursday, November 27, NO GAME – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Saturday, November 29, 11:45AM – 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 10/6/2014 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 3,586.02 Betty Capodice
- 2 3,169.66 Steve Babin
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 3 2,257.71 Zack Freehill
- 4 2,022.02 Mike Tomlianovich
- 5 2,016.02 Eunice Patton
- 6 1,794.58 Hank Hoffman
- *** 1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 7 1,516.50 Dewey Gronau
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 8 1,325.29 Ann Schuyler
- 9 1,260.08 Stan Gutzman
- 10 1,211.05 Cindy Moore
- 11 1,143.63 Jeanne Strand
- 12 1,134.47 Ron Emmett
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 13 1,113.02 Charlie Morton
- 14 1,101.81 Ivey Weaver
- 15 1,015.86 JoAnn Schroeder
- 16 1,010.84 Jean Barnett
- 17 916.56 Randall Motchan
- 18 869.90 Lori Moore
- 19 818.90 Glen Beaman
- *** 792.95 Don Strand
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- 20 777.82 Henrietta Crain
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 21 666.53 Dennis Moll
- 22 664.31 Peg Deutsch
- *** 610.73 Martin Compton
- 23 610.13 Steve Wulfers
- 24 607.05 Dave Freehill
- *** 570.80 Ann Farnsworth
- *** 567.22 Ruth Wettaw
- *** 481.88 Bev Upp
- 25 478.88 Stevie Joslin

Other players:

- ***12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,439.66 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,252.03 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 3,995.77 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,650.87 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,599.43 Carl Brueckner-Champaign
- 3,307.39 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,681.25 Liz Zalar-Springfield
- 2,650.71 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,480.67 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,436.52 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,370.60 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,348.93 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,296.72 Chuck Zalar-Springfield
- 2,245.14 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,211.33 Joanne Glazebrook-Chicago
- 2,089.08 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,086.95 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,730.50 Tim Cull-Springfield
- 1,572.67 Marilyn Stickel-Laon
- 1,528.93 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,507.43 Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,421.10 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,269.55 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 1,063.65 Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights
- *** 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 992.65 Melissa Maloney-Urbana
- 827.79 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 789.52 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 730.80 Doug Steele-Seymour
- 641.98 Carole Miller-Champaign

*** deceased



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#1

Getting to the best contract can often be difficult. It's good to keep in mind that nine tricks are sometimes easier than ten.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-19	♠ KQ9	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ Q63	-	-	1♦	1♥
Vul E/W	♦ 874	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	♣ AKQ2	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
♠ 108752		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 82	♠ A643				
♦ J10	♥ 974				
♣ 7643	♦ AK62				
	♣ J9				
	♠ J				
	♥ AKJ105				
	♦ Q953				
	♣ 1085				

Bidding: South made a light one-level overcall. North's cue bid asked how good the overcall was and South indicated a minimum. Not giving up, North thought nine tricks might be available so his second cue bid asked for a diamond stopper. South bid the game.


Play: West led the jack of diamonds ducked by East and won by declarer with the queen. Declarer counted nine tricks and went looking for an overtrick. He cashed the top two clubs and when the jack dropped, led a third one to his ten. He now had ten tricks: 5 hearts, 1 diamond, and 4 clubs.

Several N/S pairs reached game in hearts and were quickly defeated by the ace-king of diamonds, a diamond ruff, and the ace of spades.

#3

While the 4-3-2-1 point system used to evaluate hands is important, you should not rely in it entirely. Points and tricks are not the same thing.

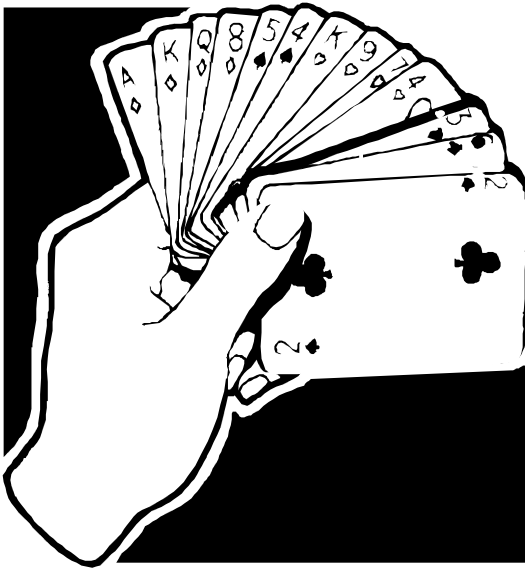
Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-21	♠ 9842	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ A8	-	1♦	1♣	2♥
Vul N/S	♦ AJ76	4♣	Pass	Pass	5♣
	♣ A62	Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
♠ J1076		Pass			
♥ 74					
♦ KQ10543					
♣ 4					
	♠ AKQ53				
	♥ 1063				
	♦ 82				
	♣ J85				
	♠				
	♥ KQJ952				
	♦ 9				
	♣ KQ10973				

Bidding: After a modest beginning, the auction quickly reached the five-level. It was clear to North that his partner had a very strong two-suited hand to bid like this at adverse vulnerability. He also was sure his partner was void in the spade suit. North's hand had become huge so he bid the small slam and worried he was missing the grand.

Play: West led the jack of spades and declarer soon claimed all thirteen tricks. At most tables the auction ended at the five-level with the North players saying something like "But, I only had 13 points." Those who really listened to the auction realized how important those three aces were and they also trusted their partner.

Upcoming tournaments:



Bloomington Winter Sectional

Jan 23-25, 2015

UAW 2488 Hall

10226 E. 1400 North Rd. Bloomington, IL 61705



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year 2014 only**

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Bloomington office located at:
Eastland Medical Plaza, 1505 Eastland Dr, Bloomington**

2014/10/30	77.50%	Doug Lamb & John Ford (99ers)
2014/10/08	70.00%	Bev Branning & Sallie Boge (NLMers)
2014/09/08	73.89%	Vi Kothe & Kirk Kimmel (99ers)
2014/08/27	70.56%	Jim Swanke & Jason Cannell (NLMers)
2014/08/21	71.48%	Tom Teeters & Jerry Oswald
2014/08/20	70.56%	Mary Tweedie & Jason Cannell (NLMers)
2014/07/21	74.31%	Linda Odette & Joyce Werner (99ers)
2014/07/16	70.00%	Marilyn & Gene Byers (99ers)
2014/07/09	70.14%	Mary Houska & Lynda Frankeberger (NLMers)
2014/06/21	70.83%	John Maloney & Steve Babin
2014/06/11	70.85%	Bev Branning & Jim Fernstrom (NLMers)
2014/04/28	70.24%	Tom Teeters & Steve Wulfers
2014/04/24	72.50%	Jeff Furler & Jason Cannell
2014/04/21	71.11%	Linda Odette & Joyce Werner (99ers)
2014/04/16	72.00%	Joyce Clay & Jason Cannell (NLMers)
2014/04/14	72.92%	Jeff Furler & Hank Hoffman
2014/04/10	75.56%	Lori Moore & Jason Cannell
2014/04/02	71.11%	Bob Ragland & Jim Swanke (NLMers)
2014/03/26	73.33%	Zoe Freeman & Jim Fernstrom (NLMers)
2014/03/19	70.14%	Kirk Kimmel & Jim Swanke (NLMers)
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

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#29 – TAKE FOUR

This week you are playing E-W, and as the problem is a tough one you get four attempts to beat the contract.

♠ 876 ♥ K32 ♦ AK98 ♣ J92		
♠ AJT43 ♥ JT4 ♦ Q54 ♣ 73	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ KQ9 ♥ Q65 ♦ T7632 ♣ 65
♠ 52 ♥ A987 ♦ J ♣ AKQT84		

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♣ 1♠ Dbl 2♠

4♥ All Pass

North's bid was a Negative Double, showing the unbid suits. She usually has 4 cards in the unbid major for that bid, but was stuck for a good alternative. Anyway, South lands in 4♥, and you are on defense. Can you beat this precarious contract?

Take 1: Spades are led, Declarer ruffing the third round. The ♥8 is ducked around to East's Queen. But East has no

Spades left, and it's easy for Declarer to win whatever is returned, draw trumps and claim the rest. Cut!

Take 2: The defense has a certain trump trick and they must make sure that it is *West* who wins that trick. This allows Spades to be continued, causing Declarer to lose trump control. So, when the ♥8 is led, West must hop up with the Ten, forcing Declarer to play Dummy's King. Now a Heart to Declarer's Ace and a low Heart to East's Queen. Again the wrong defender has won the Heart trick. Cut!

Take 3: OK, suppose West plays his ♥T on the first round, forcing Dummy's King, but then, on the second round, East cleverly jumps up with the Queen. No, that won't work either, Declarer simply lets the Queen win. Cut!

Take 4: As before, West plays the ♥T, and East must do his part by dropping the ♥Q under Dummy's King! Great defense! This guarantees that West wins the defense's Heart trick and he is the one who can play Spades. Down one!

That would be an awfully hard defense to find at the table, don't you think? In fact, it's tough enough even when looking at all four hands. But a thing of beauty nonetheless, all the more so as it gave both defenders a starring role.

#30 – COUNT SIGNALS

Count Dracula may have been a scary fellow, but Count Signals can be the defenders' best friend, as illustrated in this week's deal. You are West, so try looking at just the N-W hands and see if you can beat 5♠ doubled.

	♠ 65 ♥ ♦ K98762 ♣ KQT96	
♠ Q ♥ AKT43 ♦ AJ54 ♣ A53	North West East Declarer	♠ 874 ♥ QJ962 ♦ QT ♣ 842
	♠ AKJT932 ♥ 875 ♦ 3 ♣ J7	

None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
3♠	Dbl	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

You lead a high Heart, ruffed in Dummy. Then a Club is played to Declarer's Jack. Do you win this trick? And how do you propose to set the contract?

You could grab your ♣A and lead your trump. That will stop a second Heart ruff in Dummy. The danger is that, after

drawing trumps, if Declarer has a second Club, she will be able to run the Clubs, pitching away all her red suit losers.

Does that mean you should duck the first Club trick? Not necessarily, that could also be fatal. Declarer's Jack might be singleton in which case, if you duck, Declarer ruffs another Heart in Dummy, returns to hand with a Club ruff, and draws trumps. Her shape is likely to be 7=3=2=1, and she can now build her 11th trick by leading a Diamond towards Dummy.

So, the success of the defense depends upon West guessing whether Declarer started with one or two Clubs. But no guessing is required for those defenders who give count signals when Declarer leads a suit. If E-W are using this valuable tool then, on the first round of Clubs, East plays low to show an odd number (of Clubs), and high to show an even number.

On the actual deal, East plays the Two, so West knows that Declarer's ♣J cannot be singleton and that he can safely duck that trick. After winning the ♣J, Declarer ruffs another Heart in Dummy, but can score no more than 10 tricks. If East started with ♣8742, he would play the Eight on the first round of Clubs (high to show an even number), from which West deduces that the ♣J is singleton (Jxx is possible but less likely) and that the ♣A must be grabbed and a trump returned.

#31 – THE SAFE HAND

	♠ K543 ♥ AT ♦ A97 ♣ 8543	
♠ J92 ♥ J94 ♦ J652 ♣ J62	North West East Declarer	♠ AQT8 ♥ K7532 ♦ T84 ♣ 9
	♠ 76 ♥ Q86 ♦ KQ3 ♣ AKQT7	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

2♦ Pass 3NT All Pass

3NT is the normal contract and 9 top tricks are available. But this event was duplicate bridge where it's not always enough just to make your contract, it's also important to make overtricks. So, the question for you South players is "How do you make 10 tricks after an opening Diamond lead?"

Hearts are the best place to get that extra trick and there are two ways to tackle the suit ... either finesse the Ten hoping that West has the Jack ... or lead towards the Queen hoping

that East has the King. As you can see both plays work and will earn that valuable overtrick. But playing East for the ♥K is dangerous! If it turns out that West has the King then he can shift dramatically to the ♠J and South's cold contract is down one! The correct play is to win the opening lead in hand and finesse the ♥T, forcing East to win the trick. On this deal, East is the "safe hand", the one that cannot make the deadly Spade shift through Dummy's King.

Post Script When Declarer led a Heart towards Dummy's AT West could have made a brilliant and spectacular play! If he rises majestically with the Jack then Declarer will fear that West started with the King as well. If that's the case then the 10th trick cannot be developed without letting the danger hand gain the lead and the play of the ♥J might persuade a nervous (aka chicken) Declarer to settle for 9 tricks. But a bold Declarer will go for the gusto, playing a second round of Hearts and risking the contract for the precious overtrick.

#32 – SECOND HAND HIGH

“Second hand low” is common advice, but this is a hand where it pays to ignore that recommendation.

	♠ K ♥ 96 ♦ AJT98 ♣ J9764	
♠ JT98 ♥ 432 ♦ K6 ♣ K853	North West East Declarer	♠ A762 ♥ JT87 ♦ Q75 ♣ QT
	♠ Q543 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ 432 ♣ A2	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North saw no reason to mess about showing the minors, so she jumped straight to game in the most likely contract. West had the obvious lead of the ♠J, won by East’s Ace. Back came a Spade and Declarer could see 9 tricks if she could bring in the Diamonds. She finessed the ♦J, losing to the Queen. The defense cashed their Spades, but Dummy’s Diamonds were good. Declarer’s 9 tricks were a Spade, three Hearts, four Diamonds and a Club. Somebody goofed, who was it?

Yes, indeed, West was the goofster. We are always told “second hand low, third hand high” but (as usual) there are exceptions and this was one of them. When Declarer led that first round of Diamonds, West must hop up with the King! This alert play makes it impossible for Declarer to bring in the Diamonds for four tricks. If she takes the ♦A on the first round then East will duck the second round of Diamonds ... and if Declarer ducks the first round then the best she can do is to score three Diamonds, which is not enough.

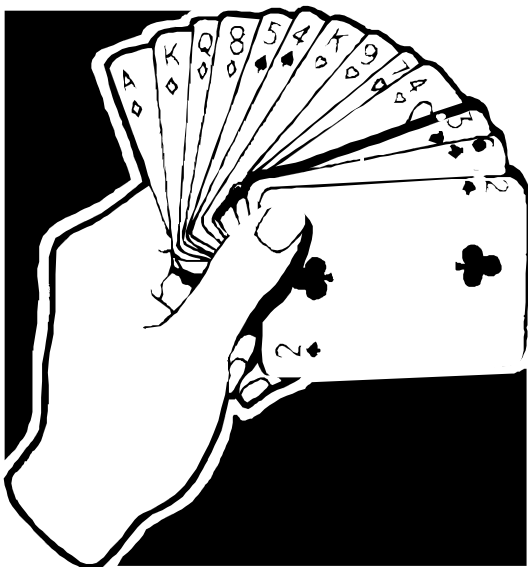
It’s a recurring theme. Dummy has AJTxx or AT9xx or some such holding ... Dummy has no side-suit entries ... West has the Queen or the King ... and the winning play by West to play “second hand high” in order to jam Declarer’s communications.

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:



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