



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 12 – December, 2014

14 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 1 – open pairs December 8 – open pairs

December 15 – open pairs December 22 – open pairs December 29 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, December 1, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, December 3, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, December 4, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, December 6, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, December 8, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, December 10, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, December 11, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, December 13, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

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

Wednesday, December 17, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, December 18, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, December 20, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, December 22, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, December 24, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, December 25, NO GAME – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Saturday, December 27, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, December 29, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, December 31, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

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

Then there is the old question of whether you should open 1NT when holding a five-card major. This seems to be somewhat of a regional preference. Those on the East Coast and in the Mid-West lean toward opening 1NT while many people in the Western United States are more likely to open one of the major. Before deciding, they might be influenced by the quality of the major suit, or perhaps will open 1NT when holding five hearts but not with five spades. In this team game, each West showed his preference.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

#14-23	♠ A654	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ KJ632	1NT	2♦*	Pass	2♣
Vul N/S	♦ 63	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ Q5				

♣ KJ1093		♠ 8
♥ Q8		♥ A1094
♦ AQ10		♦ 9874
♣ K107		♣ J842
		♠ Q72
		♥ 75
		♦ KJ52
		♣ A963

*majors

Bidding: At this table, after West opened 1NT North showed both majors and South took a preference to spades.

Play: With no good lead, West started with a low club. Declarer won the queen in dummy followed by another club to the ace. Next, he led a low heart and guessed wrong by calling for the king. East won the ace and returned a trump. Even after the fortuitous opening lead, declarer ended with only six tricks for down two and -200.

At the other table, West started the auction by bidding 1♣ and that became the contract. After a diamond lead, West was able to bring home eight tricks for +110. The combined scores of +310 earned that team seven IMPs.


Was this luck or skill?

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#3

The auction and the opening lead provide a lot of information. In this hand, declarer stopped to analyze this data and then used it to his advantage.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-25	♠ 754	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ 1075	1 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Vul N/S	♦ AJ7	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
	♣ AK83	Pass			
♠ K					
♥ KQ9					
♦ K1054					
♣ J7652					
	♠ 93				
	♥ 8642				
	♦ Q9632				
	♣ Q10				
	♠ AQJ10862				
	♥ AJ3				
	♦ 8				
	♣ 94				

Bidding: South's jump to 2♠ showed an intermediate strength hand (14-17) along with a good suit. North raised to game.


Play: West led the four of diamonds and declarer stopped to consider the hand. It appeared there were only three likely losers (1 spade and 2 hearts) so declarer turned his attention to overtricks. The opening lead provided considerable information: 1) The low diamond meant that West did not hold the KQ of diamonds; and 2) A club was not led as West might have done holding the QJ combination. So if East holds two honors, he would not have Passed if he also held the king of spades. Therefore, declarer won the ace of diamonds followed by a low spade to his ace. And then it got worse for West as declarer began to run the rest of his trumps. After six rounds of spades, West was squeezed into giving up either a heart or club trick. Declarer's score of +680 for making 12 tricks was a top.

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#4

After bidding game in a major suit, the raise to the five-level is a useful bid. If the opponents have bid, it asks for second round control of their suit. Without interference it asks about the unbid suit. In the absence of either of those conditions, it can be used to ask about trump quality. However, the popular Roman Keycard Blackwood convention is more effective than this third option. Here it is in action.

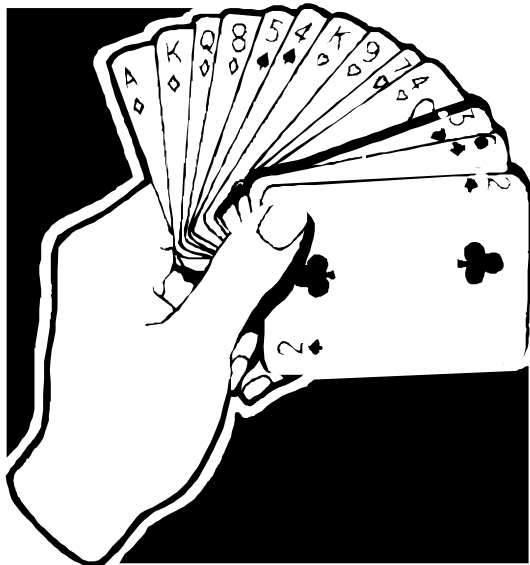
Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-26	♣ A72	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ AKJ82	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Vul N/S	♦ AQJ10	Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
	♣ 10	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	5 ♠
♠ 984		Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
♥ Q7		Pass			
♦ 6432		Pass			
♣ K982					
	♠ 3				
	♥ 109653				
	♦ 985				
	♣ AJ54				
	♠ KQJ1065				
	♥ 4				
	♦ K7				
	♣ Q763				

Bidding: North's strong jumpshift in diamonds was game forcing. South rebid his spades to show a long suit and North raised to game. South's bid of 5 ♠ asked about clubs (unbid suit) and holding second round control, North bid the slam. If North had held first round control (ace or void), he would have cue bid 6 ♣ in case South was interested in bidding a grand slam.

Play: West led a low club to his partner's ace and South had no trouble bringing home the rest of the tricks.

Upcoming tournaments:



Bloomington Winter Sectional

Jan 23-25, 2015

UAW 2488 Hall

10226 E. 1400 North Rd. Bloomington, IL 61705



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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



#33 – THIRD HAND TRICKERY

“Third hand high” is common advice, and on this hand East plays “Third hand *extra* high” in order to fool Declarer.

	♠ KJ6 ♥ 3 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ 8743	
♠ 9854 ♥ Q652 ♦ 8764 ♣ A	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ T73 ♥ AKJT9 ♦ QT2 ♣ Q2
	♠ AQ2 ♥ 874 ♦ 3 ♣ KJT965	

E-W Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
			1♥
2♣	2♥	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

On defense, in third hand, it is standard procedure to win the trick with the lowest card possible, that’s the best way to let Partner know what is going on. So, when West leads a low Heart against 5♣, East would normally win that trick with the King. But this week’s East decided to win the opening trick with the ♥A, supposedly denying possession of the King. He then returned the ♥T. What was East up to?

To answer that question put yourself in Declarer’s shoes. From East’s play to the first two Heart tricks Declarer deduces that East does not have the King (he would have played it at Trick 1), nor does he have the Jack (he would have returned it at Trick 2). So, it appears that East started with ♥AQT9x. Based on this logic Declarer will calculate that East has a maximum of 8 HCP outside the Club suit. Now, when Dummy leads a low Club from the board and East plays low, how should Declarer guess? East needs the ♣A for his opening bid and must have started with ♣A2 or ♣AQ2, so let’s not blame Declarer if he guesses wrong and goes up with the ♣K, playing East for ♣A2.

If East plays more routinely, winning the ♥K on the first round and continuing with the Ace, then he no longer needs the ♣A to make up his opening bid. That being the case, Declarer will be more inclined to make the normal Club play of running the Eight on the first round, hoping for Q2 or AQ2 in the East hand (two chances) rather than A2 (only one chance). Nice deception, Mr. East!

#34 – A DUMMY REVERSAL

	♠ AQJ ♥ 875 ♦ 7532 ♣ QJ8	
♠ 87 ♥ AJT9 ♦ AK86 ♣ T92	<i>North</i>	♠ 642 ♥ K6 ♦ QJT94 ♣ 643
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ KT953 ♥ Q432 ♦ ♣ AK75	

None Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

N-S stumble into 4♠ and West leads ♦A. Declarer can count 5 Spade tricks and 4 Clubs. That's 9, where's the 10th? A ruff in the "short hand" is a common ploy for an extra trick, but that won't work here, Dummy has no short side-suits. Any ideas?

Does ruffing the opening Diamond lead generate a 10th trick? No, that is a ruff in the long hand, that still leaves us with only five trump tricks. But suppose that Declarer ruffs *three* Diamonds. Now he gets six trump tricks via Dummy's three high trumps plus three ruffs by Declarer (the long hand). In effect, Dummy becomes the master hand, the hand which will be used to draw the enemy trumps after Declarer has got his ruffs.

Therefore, the sequence of plays is: ruff the Diamond lead, cross to the ♠Q, ruff another Diamond, cross to the ♠J, ruff a third Diamond, cross to the ♣Q, draw the remaining enemy trump. This line works whenever trumps are 3-2.

The thing to remember here is that Declarer needs *three* ruffs for the Dummy Reversal to produce an extra trick. It's that third ruff which reduces Declarer's trumps to a shorter length than Dummy's. Actually, it would even be possible for Declarer to get a fourth ruff, but there are insufficient entries to take advantage of this. So, 10 tricks it is.

#35 – THE CROCODILE COUP

Bridge has a number of exotic “coups” and for the next few columns we’ll look at some of them, starting with the aptly named Crocodile Coup.

	♠ KQT9 ♥ 8732 ♦ K6 ♣ 843	
♠ J63 ♥ J5 ♦ 932 ♣ KT976	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ A87542 ♥ T64 ♦ QT7 ♣ J
	♠ ♥ AKQ9 ♦ AJ854 ♣ AQ52	

We’ll spare you the auction and just say that American many-time world champion Bob Hamman found himself in a poor 6♦ contract after East had overcalled Spades. You are sitting West, try playing this out looking at just the N-W hands.

You lead the Spade Three, Dummy plays the King, East the Ace and Declarer ruffs. Then a Diamond to Dummy’s King, a Diamond to Declarer’s Jack, and the ♦A. Partner follows with the Seven, Ten and Queen. With trumps drawn, Declarer now plays ♥A, ♥K, ♥Q, East playing the Four, Six, Ten.

Of course, while all this going on, you are busy counting the distribution, because that’s what successful defenders do. Declarer ruffed the first Spade so East is known to have

started with 6 Spades. Hearts? East played the Four and then the Six, and “low-high” shows an odd number, in this case three. Diamonds? East started with three of those also. That leaves just one Club with East, he started life with 6=3=3=1 distribution.

Next, Declarer leads a low Club from his hand and you must avoid the temptation to win this cheaply with the Nine! If you do, East will be forced to overtake with the Jack, and will have to lead a Spade (that’s all he has left), allowing Declarer’s Club losers to go away on Dummy’s Spades. Instead, you alertly squander the ♣K, swallowing Partner’s Jack, and you return the ♣T. Now Declarer never reaches Dummy’s Spades, and eventually loses another Club. Nice defense! When this deal was played in the 2006 World Championships, West was caught napping and missed that Crocodile Coup.

#36 – MORTON'S FORK

We continue our look at some of bridge's exotic coups, and this column it is the Morton's Fork, a play which offers an opponent a choice of evils. Here, the Fork allows Declarer to bring home the 6♥ contract.

	♠ Q7 ♥ 73 ♦ AK642 ♣ K743	
♠ A865 ♥ 654 ♦ Q98 ♣ QT5	North West East Declarer	♠ JT432 ♥ J8 ♦ JT73 ♣ 86
	♠ K9 ♥ AKQT92 ♦ 5 ♣ AJ92	

West leads a trump. As Declarer, what is your plan? Of course, if the Club finesse works then 12 tricks will be easy. Alternatively, it would be just grand if Dummy's long Diamond could be set up with a couple of ruffs, then the Club finesse would not be necessary. Alas, there are not enough Dummy entries for that. Or maybe there are! Yes, here is your chance to skewer the defense on a Morton's Fork, offering two losing options.

After drawing trumps, you cross to the ♦A and ruff a Diamond. Now you lead the ♠K and West will be impaled on one of these prongs:

First Prong: If West wins the ♠K with his Ace he manages to score his Spade, but not without cost. Now Dummy has an extra entry (in Spades) and you have the timing to ruff out the Diamonds. You no longer need the Club finesse, you have your 12 tricks via a Spade, 6 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 2 Clubs.

Second Prong: If West ducks the ♠K then you cross to the ♣K, cash Dummy's ♦K (pitching your remaining Spade), give up a Club, and romp home with 12 tricks. In this variation the defense never scores a Spade trick.

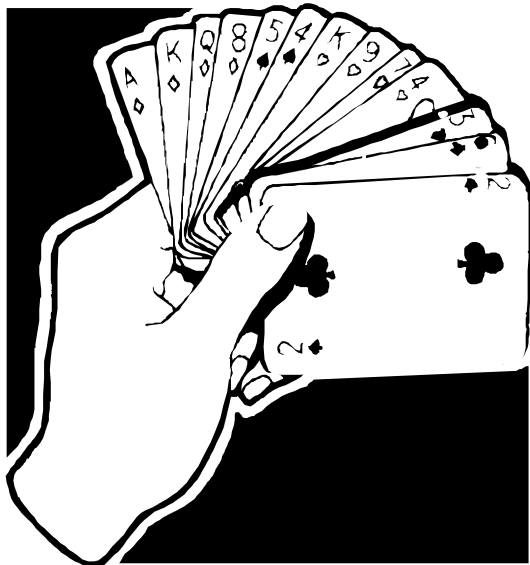
This hand required perfect timing! It was necessary to cash just one high Diamond and then ruff a Diamond before playing on Spades. If you had neglected to do that then you had no chance of getting the long Diamond established. And it would have been fatal to cash *both* Diamonds before playing on Spades, that would have rendered the fork's second prong inoperable. A very pretty deal!

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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UAW 2488 Hall

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