



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 4 – April, 2015

14 pages



April Events



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

April 6 – open pairs April 13 – open pairs

April 20 – open pairs April 27 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

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

Thursday, April 2, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, April 4, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 6, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 8, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, April 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, April 11, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 13, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

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

Thursday, April 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, April 18, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 20, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 22, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, April 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, April 25, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 27, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 29, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, April 30, 11:45AM – open 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 2/6/2015 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 3,612.39 Betty Capodice
- 2 3,225.25 Steve Babin
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 3 2,320.05 Zack Freehill
- 4 2,073.27 Eunice Patton
- 5 2,042.06 Mike Tomlianovich
- *** 1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 6 1,536.04 Dewey Gronau
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- 7 1,340.29 Ann Schuyler
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 8 1,323.43 Cindy Moore
- 9 1,263.31 Stan Gutzman
- 10 1,178.26 Ron Emmett
- 11 1,150.68 Jeanne Strand
- 12 1,147.71 JoAnn Schroeder
- 13 1,137.27 Charlie Morton
- 14 1,109.68 Ivey Weaver
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 15 1,018.97 Jean Barnett
- 16 951.85 Lori Moore
- 17 923.71 Randall Motchan
- 18 821.22 Glen Beaman
- *** 792.95 Don Strand
- 19 781.49 Henrietta Crain
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 20 690.21 Dennis Moll
- 21 668.94 Peg Deutsch
- 22 629.85 Steve Wulfers
- 23 626.42 Dave Freehill
- *** 610.73 Martin Compton
- *** 570.80 Ann Farnsworth
- *** 567.22 Ruth Wettaw
- 24 500.94 Stevie Joslin
- *** 481.88 Bev Upp
- 25 476.46 Jeff Furler
- *** deceased

Other players:

- *** 12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,538.71 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,313.48 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,006.53 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,711.46 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,619.27 Carl Brueckner-Champaign
- 3,422.45 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,704.89 Liz Zalar-Springfield
- 2,669.39 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,480.67 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,437.71 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,442.56 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,390.02 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,373.51 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,301.80 Chuck Zalar-Springfield
- 2,258.18 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,232.52 Joanne Glazebrook-Chicago
- 2,129.88 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,107.18 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,809.30 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,751.66 Tim Cull-Springfield
- 1,581.88 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,528.93 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,541.05 Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,469.90 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,270.74 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 1,069.18 Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights
- 1,005.41 Melissa Maloney-Urbana
- *** 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 837.68 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 802.54 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 743.66 Doug Steele-Seymour
- 651.77 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 498.35 Dot Bergstrom-Peoria
- 507.03 Brian Maloney-Urbana



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#1

Too often players forget the auction once the play of the hand begins. A strong declarer will use that important information.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand #14-39	♠ 753	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ AQ109	-	-	1♠	4♦
Vul Both	♦ K52	4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
	♣ K76	DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass
♠ A109	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>				
♥ J5432					
♦ Q					
♣ A982					
	♠ KQJ862				
	♥ K				
	♦ 3				
	♣ QJ1053				
	♠ 4				
	♥ 876				
	♦ AJ1098764				
	♣ 4				

Bidding: North wasn't sure he could defeat the spade game so he bid on to the five-level. Holding two aces opposite an opening bid, West felt obligated to double.

Play: West led the ace of spades and continued with a second round. Declarer ruffed and wondered why West hadn't made the obvious shift to a club. At trick three, declarer played the ace of diamonds to draw trumps. Next, he led a low club and West rose with the ace. West exited with a third spade and declarer again ruffed. A simple counting of points made it clear that East must have the remaining high cards for his opening bid. This made the heart finesse a losing proposition, so declarer led a low heart to the ace and was rewarded when the king dropped. He discarded a low heart on the king of clubs and made his contract. Finding the king of hearts singleton was indeed lucky, but it made no sense to take a finesse that was certain to lose.

If West had found a heart shift at trick two, declarer most likely would have taken the finesse and gone down. At the other table, the same contract was down one.

#2

The ability to look ahead and anticipate the play is a valuable asset. This declarer failed that test.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #14-40	♠ 10872	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ 943	-	Pass	Pass	2NT
Vul Both	♦ AJ43	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
	♣ 96	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♠ 943		Pass			
♥ KJ106	□				
♦ K109					
♣ 432					
	♠ K65				
	♥ A82				
	♦ 875				
	♣ 10875				
	♠ AQJ				
	♥ Q75				
	♦ Q62				
	♣ AKQJ				

Bidding: North used Stayman to search for a spade fit before ending in 3NT.

Play: West led the jack of hearts to his partner's ace. A heart was returned and the defense quickly had four tricks. Before following to the fourth heart, declarer stopped to analyze the hand. To succeed, he saw that the king of spades must be in the East hand and the king of diamonds with West. He could then win 3 spades, 2 diamonds, and 4 clubs. On the fourth heart declarer discarded a club from dummy and a low diamond from his hand. West exited with a club and declarer proceeded with his plan. In order to repeat the spade finesse, two entries to dummy were needed. Declarer led his low diamond toward dummy's jack but West foiled the plan by playing the king. Declarer could win the ace and take the spade finesse but was unable to get back to dummy. He finally conceded down one.


Declarer should have realized the diamond queen was an obstacle. He must either lead the queen or discard her on the last heart. Getting her highness out of the way would make it easy to reach dummy a second time to repeat the spade finesse.

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#3

The matchpoint scoring used in pairs games does not favor minor suit games. They are to be reached only when notrump and the major suits have shown themselves to be unacceptable strains. This hand makes that point.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #14-41	♠ AK6	West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ 97	-	-	-	1 ♣
Vul Both	♦ AJ52	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♥	Pass
	♣ AJ43	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
♠ 9874		Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
♥ QJ5		Pass			
♦ 64		Pass			
♣ 10876					
	♠ 52				
	♥ AK8432				
	♦ 10983				
	♣ 9				
	♠ QJ103				
	♥ 106				
	♦ KQJ				
	♣ KQ52				

Bidding: After East's weak jump overcall, North cue bid the suit to ask South if he held a heart stopper. South denied a stopper but showed either a spade suit or a spade control. North raised with his strong three-card holding. Without a spade suit, South would have retreated to a minor.

Play: West led the queen and a second heart to East. After East exited with a club, South was now able to claim the remaining tricks. At a 14 table game, this pair was the only one to reach the spade game. Several went down in 3NT, one was down in 5♦, and a few reached and made game in clubs. This pair's +650 was the top score.

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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!!



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Bloomington office located at:

Eastland Medical Plaza, 1505 Eastland Dr, Bloomington

2015/03/23	71.79%	Eunice Patton & Jeff Furler
2015/03/02	71.11%	Lynn Steffen & Bev Branning (99ers)
2015/02/04	70.00%	John Stahly & John Ford (NLMers)
2015/02/02	71.30%	John Stahly & Rick Kern (99ers)
2015/01/05	70.83%	Kay Marvin & Terri Huebsch (99ers)
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



#49 – MANAGING THE ENTRIES

This week's hand comes from a duplicate bridge event, where the method of scoring generously rewards making overtricks.

♠ AKT9 ♥ Q ♦ 987 ♣ T9764		
♠ Q832 ♥ AT75 ♦ T43 ♣ KQ	<i>North</i>	♠ J7654 ♥ 832 ♦ KJ52 ♣ J
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
		♠ ♥ KJ964 ♦ AQ6 ♣ A8532

E-W Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Can you make 10 tricks after a low Diamond lead? Our title is one clue, and we'll also say that West is a slippery cove, and that the play in Clubs is crucial. Alright, that's enough clues, now please make 10 tricks.

Our Declarer managed only 9 tricks. He won the Diamond lead, cashed the ♣A and conceded a Club, playing low from the board both times. West won the second Club and

persevered with Diamonds. Declarer correctly ducked and took the next Diamond, hoping that the defender with the ♥A was not the one with the 13th Diamond. Then Declarer led to the ♥Q but that rascally West ducked the trick! This fine play meant that Declarer could not score a second Heart trick ... with ♣T97 on the board and ♣853 in hand there was only one entry back to hand when two were needed (one to knock out the ♥A, the other to get back to the Heart winner). Making only 9 tricks.

West made a good play by ducking the Heart but Declarer did not have to give him a chance to shine. On the first two rounds of Clubs, Declarer should play Dummy's ♣9 and ♣T. Now, with ♣764 on the board and ♣853 in hand, there *are* two entries to hand, and also one back to the board later, with which to reach the ♠AK. Careful management of the entries nullifies West's clever duck and brings in that valuable overtrick.

#50 – RIGHT-SIDING THE CONTRACT

	♠ 53 ♥ 3 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ98432	
♠ AQJ962 ♥ JT2 ♦ K532 ♣	North West East Declarer	♠ T87 ♥ 98764 ♦ T87 ♣ 76
	♠ K4 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ AQJ ♣ KJT5	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
	1♠	3♣	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

As can be seen, 6♣ (played from the North side) is down one in a hurry after East's opening Spade lead. So South sensibly bid 6NT to "right-side" the contract, putting West on lead and protecting the ♠K. Against 6NT, West leads the ♥J. Can you make 12 tricks?

Declarer can count only 11 top tricks and can be sure (from the bidding) that the ♦K and ♠A are both with West. Does that mean that 6NT is destined to fail? Actually, no, because Declarer can organize an end-play. Declarer wins the opening Heart lead, cashes the other Heart winners and rattles off 7 Clubs. West's last three cards will presumably be ♠A and ♦K5, and Declarer will come down to ♠K and ♦AQ. Now, West is thrown in with a Spade and must lead a Diamond, giving Declarer her 12th trick. That pretty ending is known as a Strip Squeeze.

Post Script: West might have thwarted the squeeze by coming down to ♠AQ and ♦K, but an astute Declarer will suspect that West has the ♠Q for his opening bid and will play to drop the ♦K instead of trying the Spade throw-in. A more thoughtful West will bare the ♦K early in his discards, and will also pitch away the ♠Q and ♠J, coming down to the fiendishly devious ♠A6 and ♦K! Nobody would fault Declarer for now assuming that West started life with 5=3=5=0 distribution, and for misguessing the end-game as a result. Wicked defense, Mr West!

#51 – SIDE-SUITS FIRST

In our first bridge lesson we are taught to draw the defenders' trumps early in the play, lest they start ruffing our winners. We then spend the rest of our lives discovering (sometimes painfully) that there are exceptions to this rule.

	♠ J74 ♥ A9765 ♦ 92 ♣ AKJ	
♠ Q532 ♥ K832 ♦ Q4 ♣ QT2	<i>North</i>	♠ AKT986 ♥ Q4 ♦ KT753 ♣
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ ♥ JT ♦ AJ86 ♣ 9876543	

E-W Vulnerable

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

With extreme distribution around the table (or at least in the S-E corner), it's not unusual for the bidding to keep on going until someone finally says "Enough already, I double you!" Here, West questions South's ability to make 11 tricks in Clubs.

After ruffing the opening Spade lead, one (faulty) plan would be to ruff a couple of Diamonds, but that would set up a natural trump trick for the defense (two, as it happens, because the suit splits 3-0). The winning plan is to set up the Hearts, and some trumps must be kept in reserve in order to provide Dummy entries later in the play. It's OK to play a trump to the Ace at Trick 2, and then the play continues: Spade ruff; ♥J losing to East's Queen; Diamond shift won by the Ace; ♥T is run around; Club to Dummy; ♥A is cashed (pitching a Diamond); Heart ruff; Club back to the board. Now another Diamond is pitched on the long Heart and Declarer has her 11 tricks (7 trumps, 3 Hearts and the ♦A). Not a difficult hand for those who didn't use up Dummy's trumps before tackling Hearts.

Anyone for 4♠? Yes, that's another contract where it doesn't pay to draw trumps immediately. In this case it is the Diamonds which must be established early, and Declarer goes down if he ruffs the opening Club lead and then draws three rounds of trumps. Instead the play goes: Club ruff; ♠A; Diamond to the Queen; Heart to the Queen; lose a Diamond. Now Declarer is in control and loses just two red Aces and a Diamond overruff.

#52 – PAYBACK TIME

In recent Bridge Bites, our West has been a bit of a pest, frequently coming up with dastardly plays which make Declarer's life difficult. This week we are delighted to report that West makes a slight slip and becomes the victim.

	♠ J975 ♥ 872 ♦ J96 ♣ A95	
♠ A ♥ JT ♦ AKQ84 ♣ Q8732	North West East Declarer	♠ T3 ♥ Q6543 ♦ 753 ♣ JT4
	♠ KQ8642 ♥ AK9 ♦ T2 ♣ K6	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

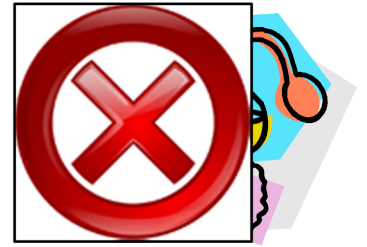
Perhaps South was a little boisterous in the bidding, a more prudent player would have merely invited game. But making seemingly impossible contracts is one of the joys of the game, and your job is to make 10 tricks after West plays three rounds of Diamonds.

It looks pretty grim, doesn't it? Two Diamonds have already been lost, the ♠A is another loser, and there appears to be an inescapable Heart loser. Down one? No, it's too soon to give

up! Declarer has a long-shot route to success, which requires that West started with the singleton trump Ace and no more than two Hearts. Step 1 is to cash the top Clubs and ruff a Club. Step 2 is to cash the ♥A and the ♥K. Now, Step 3 is to exit with a trump. Let's relish West's discomfort! Declarer's fine play has eliminated all of West's safe exit cards. With nothing left but Diamonds and Clubs, whatever West plays will give Declarer a ruff and discard ... he'll ruff the return in one hand and discard the "inescapable" Heart loser from the other. Making 10 tricks!

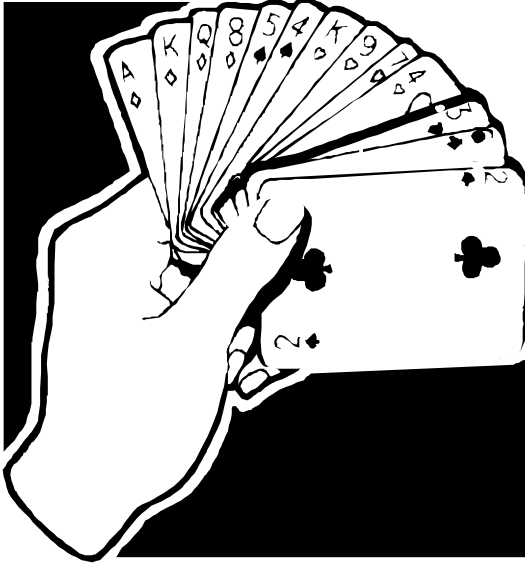
You see where West went wrong, of course. He needed to cash the ♠A early in the play (before the third round of Diamonds). Now, the elimination play does not work, and Declarer will eventually be down one.

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Upcoming tournaments:



GNT District Final GNT

May 2-3, 2015

UAW 2488

10226 E. 1400 North Rd, Bloomington, IL 61705

Illini Regional

May 19-25, 2015

Hawthorn Suites

101 Trade Center Dr., Champaign, IL 61820