



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 5 – May, 2015

14 pages



May Events



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

May 4 – open pairs May 11 – open pairs

May 18 – open pairs May 25 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, May 2, NO GAME - GNT

Monday, May 4, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, May 6, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, May 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, May 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, May 11, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, May 13, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, May 14, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, May 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, May 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, May 20, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, May 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, May 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, May 25, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, May 27, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, May 28, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, May 30, 11:45AM – open pairs – Evergreen Place club room

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-Laon
- 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

Bridge is a game of many possibilities so it always helps to have a backup plan. "If at first you don't succeed" certainly applies to this hand.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand #14-43	♠ J74	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ J9762	Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Vul N/S	♦ A52	Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
	♣ AJ	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 1095	□				
♥ AK104					
♦ J108					
♣ 975					
	♠ 62				
	♥ Q5				
	♦ Q764				
	♣ K10862				
	♠ AKQ83				
	♥ 83				
	♦ K93				
	♣ Q43				


Bidding: North's response of 2♣ was the Drury convention showing a spade raise with 10-12 support points. Never wanting to miss a vulnerable game in a team event, South bid 4♣.

Play: West led the ace of hearts and then shifted to the jack of diamonds. Declarer counted four possible losers: 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club. He needed either the club finesse to succeed or to find a way to eliminate a diamond loser. He won the diamond in his hand and led a club to the jack. Plan A failed as East won the king and led a second diamond. Declarer won this in dummy and then unblocked the ace of clubs. Next, declarer led a spade to his ace followed by the queen of clubs discarding a diamond from dummy. He trumped his last diamond in dummy, drew trumps, and had his ten tricks.

#2

When declaring 3NT it is usually correct to start by counting your tricks. However, it is equally as important to make sure you have the entries to those tricks. This declarer had to be very careful.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #14-44	♠ AJ962	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ AK1064	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Vul N/S	♦ K5	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2NT
	♣ K	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3NT
♠ 754		Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
♥ QJ98	♠ K1083	Pass			
♦ Q963	♥ 52	Pass			
♣ 43	♦ 1072	Pass			
	♣ J762				
	♠ Q				
	♥ 73				
	♦ AJ84				
	♣ AQ10985				

Bidding: North showed spades and hearts while South forced to game by bidding 2♣ and then bid and rebid notrump. With extras, North invited slam but South declined.

Play: West led a small diamond and declarer saw he had very few entries to his hand. He decided to establish the club suit and started by winning the diamond king in dummy. If he had ducked and the queen was played by East, he would lose an entry to his hand. At trick two he led the king of clubs overtaking with the ace. He continued with the queen and ten clubs losing to the jack. East led a second diamond won by declarer with the ace. Declarer now had his ten tricks: 1 spade, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 5 clubs.

If declarer had played for the clubs to divide 3-2, he would have failed. While overtricks are important in a pairs game, it is often best to ensure the contract. In a small local game, this score of +630 was next to top; one N/S pair bid and made 6♣.

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#3

It's usually wrong to expect partner to hold just the cards you need but it can happen. This declarer was delighted with the dummy his partner put on the table.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #14-45	♠ Q64	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ A10753	-	-	1♦	1♠
Vul E/W	♦ J975	Pass	2♣	Pass	4NT
	♣ 10	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
		Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
♠ 73		Pass			
♥ J9642					
♦ 103					
♣ 9532					

	♠ 102	
	♥ KQ	
	♦ AKQ862	
	♣ 864	

	♠ AKJ985
	♥ 8
	♦ 4
	♣ AKQJ7

Bidding: After East opened the auction, South wasn't sure how to bid his two-suited hand. He finally decided to just overcall and hope the auction wouldn't end. After North raised, South used Roman Keycard Blackwood to find his partner with one of the missing aces. Next, he asked if North held the queen of trumps. North acknowledged possession of that important card and also denied any outside king. South confidently bid the small slam.

Play: West led a diamond and continued with a second round that declarer ruffed high. South had no trouble winning the rest of the tricks. Surprisingly, in a 14-table game, only one other N/S pair reached this great slam.

The RKC convention is very useful. Unless you and your partner hold ten or more cards in your trump suit, you usually want to avoid bidding slams missing a keycard and the queen of trumps.

#4

As declarer, a review of the auction will often provide you with valuable information. The bidding gave this declarer just what he needed.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

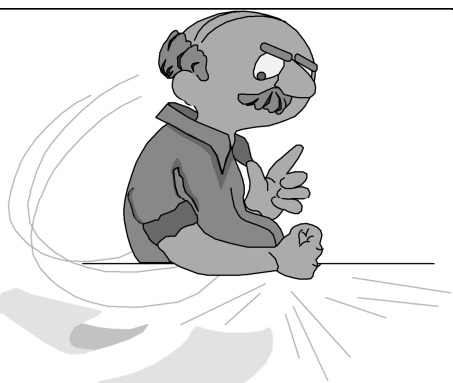
Hand #14-46	♠ QJ	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ K1053	-	-	2♣	Pass
Vul N/S	♦ A97	Pass	DBL	Pass	3NT
	♣ A864	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 3					
♥ AJ742	♠ K107642				
♦ J432	♥ Q96				
♣ Q73	♦ Q1086				
	♣				
	♠ A985				
	♥ 8				
	♦ K5				
	♣ KJ10952				

Bidding: After East's weak-two opening bid, North balanced with a takeout double. South was tempted to defend, but the vulnerability made declaring a better decision.

Play: West led his singleton spade to the queen, king, and ace. If either opponent was short in clubs it was more likely to be East so declarer started the suit by playing the king. When East discarded a spade, declarer continued with another club to dummy's eight. The ace drew the last club and declarer then unblocked the jack of spades followed by a fourth club to his hand. The 9 of spades was led next and declarer now had 11 tricks: 3 spades, 2 diamonds, and 6 clubs.

There was nothing difficult about the play of the hand but few managed 11 tricks.

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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



#53 – TIMING IS EVERYTHING

	♠ T ♥ 9765 ♦ A9632 ♣ AKQ	
♠ KQJ9653 ♥ T8 ♦ 85 ♣ 54	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ KQJ ♦ KQJT4 ♣ T763
	♠ A872 ♥ A432 ♦ 7 ♣ J982	

E-W Vulnerable

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

West's 2♠ (showing long Spades and not much else) pushed N-S into the precarious contract of 4♥. Look at what happened in actual play, and then figure out how you would have done better as Declarer.

West led the ♠K, won by Declarer's Ace. With six side-suit tricks it would be necessary to score four trump tricks, and

as the trump suit was so weak it was apparent that some ruffing would be required. One line that would clearly not work would be to get the enemy trumps out of the way first, that would leave Declarer a trick short (scoring only three trump tricks). So Declarer cashed the ♥A at Trick 2, and then, leaving three enemy trumps at large, he played on the side-suits. His general plan was to let the opponents take their trumps whenever they wished, but that was all they would get. He started with Dummy's high Clubs, but West ruffed the third round and played another Spade. Dummy ruffed, East over-ruffed and cashed her high Heart, leaving Declarer with just 9 tricks.

Declarer needed to time the play better if he was to score 10 tricks. At Trick 2 he must duck a trump! Now, he wins the Diamond return, plays the Ace of trumps and (leaving one enemy trump at large) goes about his business of cashing winners and cross-ruffing. Altogether Declarer has 11 potential tricks via the ♥A, four ruffs and six side-suit winners, but that enemy trump will rub out one of those tricks and reduce the total to 10. Making 4♥, thanks to careful timing.

#54 – A ROAD MAP

	♠ T ♥ 9765 ♦ A9632 ♣ AKQ	
♠ KQJ9653 ♥ 8 ♦ J8 ♣ 543	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ KQJT ♦ KQT54 ♣ T76
	♠ A872 ♥ A432 ♦ 7 ♣ J982	

E-W Vulnerable

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

If the N-S hands look familiar, that's because they were featured in last week's Bridge Bite. But the E-W hands have been changed, and East, who now has four trumps, could not resist doubling 4♥. That was not a wise move, as we are about to see.

Last week, in the absence of a Double, Declarer played for 3-2 trumps, and as that turned out to be the case, 10 tricks

could be made by winning the Spade lead, and ducking a round of trumps at Trick 2. Declarer could win the return, draw just one more round of trumps and, leaving one trump at large, could cash winners and cross-ruff his way to 10 tricks.

But this week Declarer has to make 10 tricks after East has doubled. Now it seems likely that East has 4 trumps and ducking a trump at Trick 2 will not work. East wins and returns a trump, and will later get in (with a Spade over-ruff or a Club ruff), draw another round of trumps and leave Declarer a trick short. So, guided by the Double, Declarer does not duck a trump at Trick 2. Instead, she cashes the ♥A and goes for three Diamond ruffs in her hand (confident that West is now out of trumps and cannot over-ruff). The play goes: ♠A; ♥A; ♦A; Diamond ruff; ♣A; Diamond ruff; ♣K; ♣Q; Diamond ruff. That's 9 tricks and when the ♣J is played next, there will be a 10th trick, one way or another.

No doubt East's Double seemed like a good idea at the time, but in fact it only served to give Declarer a road map to the winning line of play, by alerting him to the likely 4-1 trump split.

#55 – THAT SINKING FEELING

	♠ AK42 ♥ ♦ 764 ♣ AKT654	
♠ 765 ♥ T762 ♦ KQT95 ♣ 3	North West East Declarer	♠ ♥ QJ9543 ♦ J82 ♣ QJ98
	♠ QJT983 ♥ AK8 ♦ A3 ♣ 72	

The auction has not been recorded for posterity, but we can say that N-S must have bid quite superbly in order to reach the excellent contract of 7♠. “Nicely bid, Partner! A cold grand slam with only 28 combined HCP!” enthused Declarer when Dummy was tabled after the opening lead of the ♦K. Declarer was quite right, the slam was cold, but not the way that he played it. Of course, you can do better. How do you propose to make 13 tricks?

Declarer didn’t bother to count his tricks, perhaps feeling that it would have been rather unsporting to waste time when he had so many trumps and Club winners. At Trick 2, he played a trump to Dummy’s Ace and, when East showed out,

Declarer paused for thought (one trick too late!). It was then that he got that awful sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach, realizing that he could no longer get two ruffs in Dummy because of the shortage of entries back to his hand. Getting only one ruff would leave him a trick short, so he tried to set up the Clubs, but that lifeline failed him when the suit was 4-1. Down one!

“Rotten luck”, sympathized North, in soothing tones. “If Spades or Clubs had broken reasonably you would have made your slam”. What North politely refrained from saying was “Why on earth didn’t you win the opening Diamond lead, cash the Hearts (pitching Diamonds), ruff a Diamond *high*, get back to hand with a trump, ruff a Heart *high*, cross back with another trump, and draw the last trump?”

#56 – FINESSE FATALE

	♠ J94 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ643 ♣ 7542	
♠ K53 ♥ KQT2 ♦ Q9872 ♣ J	North West East Declarer	♠ 2 ♥ AJ984 ♦ KT ♣ Q9863
	♠ AQT876 ♥ 763 ♦ 5 ♣ AKT	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

N-S reached their Spade game one baby step at a time and West led the ♥K. Seeing the danger of Heart ruffs in Dummy, East overtook with his Ace and smartly shifted to a trump. That was sensible defense, now what would be sensible Declarer play?

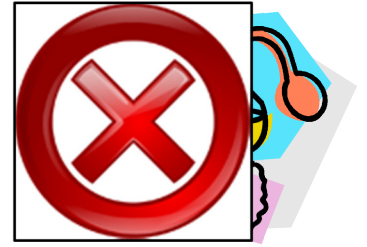
It may seem routine to finesse the Spade, but that would be fatal. West wins his King and returns another trump. Oops! Now Declarer has only one Heart ruff in Dummy and is down

one! The correct play is easy enough if Declarer counts his tricks. He has three side-suit winners, and if he can get *two* Heart ruffs in Dummy, then he can make do with just five trump tricks in his own hand. Ten easy tricks, but only if Declarer makes certain of both ruffs by hopping up with the ♠A at Trick 2. The full line of play is: ♥A; ♠A; Heart ruff; ♦A; Diamond ruff; Heart ruff; Diamond ruff; then play on trumps.

As Declarer was engineering those Heart ruffs he did well to return to hand with Diamond ruffs. If he had attempted to use the ♣A and ♣K as his entries then he'd have got a nasty shock when West ruffed the second Club for down one.

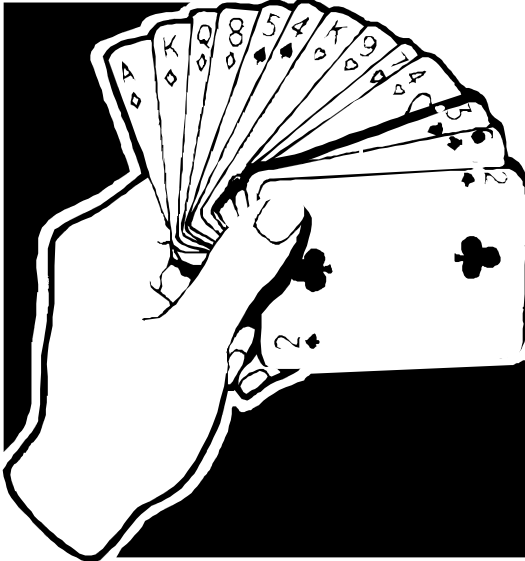
How about an opening trump lead? Does that set 4♠? Actually, no! Declarer wins and plays a Heart. If East wins that trick he cannot play another trump, and Dummy gets the two ruffs ... and if West wins he can lead a trump to stop the second ruff, but only at the expense of his natural trump trick. A Club opening lead is no better for the defense because, although the defense is able to arrange a Club ruff, that comes at the expense of their natural Club trick.

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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