



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 7 – July, 2015

14 pages



July Events



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

July 6 – open pairs July 13 – open pairs

July 20 – open pairs July 27 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Wednesday, July 1, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, July 2, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, July 4, NO GAME – ENJOY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Wednesday, July 8, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, July 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, July 11, NO GAME – LOCAL TOURNAMENT

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

Wednesday, July 15, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – location TBA

Thursday, July 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – location TBA

Saturday, July 18, 11:45AM – open pairs – First Christian – SPECIAL LOCATION

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

Wednesday, July 22, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, July 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

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

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

Wednesday, July 29, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, July 30, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

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 6/7/2015 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,628.97 Betty Capodice**
- 2 **3,268.55 Steve Babin**
- *** **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3 **2,377.79 Zack Freehill**
- 4 **2,185.80 Eunice Patton**
- 5 **2,049.21 Mike Tomlianovich**
- *** **1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne**
- 6 **1,552.72 Dewey Gronau**
- 7 **1,461.16 Cindy Moore**
- 8 **1,444.63 Ann Schuyler**
- *** **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- *** **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 9 **1,307.49 JoAnn Schroeder**
- 10 **1,263.31 Stan Gutzman**
- 11 **1,180.75 Ron Emmett**
- 12 **1,157.80 Jeanne Strand**
- 13 **1,156.19 Charlie Morton**
- 14 **1,118.67 Ivey Weaver**
- *** **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 15 **1,080.86 Lori Moore**
- 16 **1,024.08 Jean Barnett**
- 17 **935.59 Randall Motchan**
- 18 **822.26 Glen Beaman**
- *** **792.95 Don Strand**
- 19 **782.71 Henrietta Crain**
- *** **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- *** **741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 20 **699.24 Dennis Moll**
- 21 **672.63 Peg Deutsch**
- 22 **651.54 Steve Wulfers**
- 23 **648.59 Dave Freehill**
- *** **610.73 Martin Compton**
- *** **570.80 Ann Farnsworth**
- *** **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 24 **551.58 Jeff Furler**
- *** **481.88 Bev Upp**
- 25 **515.20 Stevie Joslin**
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy**
- 11,671.89 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 4,499.06 John Seng-Champaign**
- 4,394.61 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- *** **4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 4,013.73 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,776.03 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 3,573.24 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,714.01 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,485.66 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,437.71 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,465.99 Pat Carrington-Champaign**
- 2,417.00 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 2,427.61 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,298.33 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 2,261.68 Mary Allen-Peoria**
- 2,133.09 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- 1,831.87 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria**
- *** **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,769.55 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- 1,612.93 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,550.53 Dennis Fitton-Champaign**
- 1,528.93 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,520.52 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 1,270.74 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- *** **916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 846.87 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 846.16 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**
- 768.73 Doug Steele-Seymour**
- 657.64 Carole Miller-Champaign**



IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

Sponsored by:

S & S Paint & Body, Inc

Complete detail service

Kelly Spence, owner

Ph: 309-662-5241 Fax: 309-662-7045

2051 Ireland Grove Road, Bloomington, IL 61704



#1

Minor suit slams are often difficult to bid. This N/S pair had the tools to reach a good slam that was missed by most.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #14-51	♠ Q5	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ 4	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Vul E/W	♦ Q10973	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
	♣ KQ752	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
♠ 10863		Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣
♥ 1098	♠ J9742	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ K652	♥ KQ763				
♣ 64	♦ 8				
	♣ 93				
	♠ AK				
	♥ AJ52				
	♦ AJ4				
	♣ AJ108				

Bidding: North forced to game with 2♦ and South's 2NT rebid showed a balanced hand with 22-24 high card points. North's 3♠ bid was artificial relaying South to 3NT. The 4♥ rebid showed length in both minors and shortness in hearts. South liked his minor suit holdings and jumped to the slam. With no interest, South would have signed off in 4NT.

Play: West led the 10 of hearts to the queen and ace. Declarer drew trumps ending in dummy followed by a low diamond to the jack and king. West continued hearts and declarer ruffed in dummy and claimed the remaining tricks.

Several N/S pairs reached 6NT and were defeated after a heart lead and the losing diamond finesse.

#2

A strong declarer will take only those finesses that cannot be avoided. In this hand the declarer placed the finesse in plan B status and didn't have to use it.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #14-52	♠ A95	West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ 843	-	-	-	1♦
Vul N/S	♦ AK109	Pass	2♦	2♥	2♠
	♣ 1076	3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
♠ Q2		Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
♥ QJ97		Pass		Pass	
♦ 83		Pass			
♣ J5432					
	♠ 10874				
	♥ AK1053				
	♦ J6				
	♣ Q9				
	♠ KJ63				
	♥ 6				
	♦ Q7542				
	♣ AK8				

Bidding: North made an inverted diamond raise. This showed 4+ diamonds, no 4-card major, and 10+ points in support. East made a light, lead-directing overcall and South showed a spade stopper. West raised hearts and North passed to show a minimum diamond raise. Expecting no wasted hearts values in his partner's hand, South continued by bidding his club fragment and North bid game.

Play: West led the queen of hearts and continued with the jack ruffed by declarer. Looking at possible losers in spades and clubs, declarer saw an elimination play was possible if the trumps were 2-2. He drew trumps in two rounds and ruffed dummy's last heart in his hand. Now he simply led the ace-king and a third club. West won the jack and had to either lead a spade or give declarer a ruff/sluff. He led another club and declarer discarded a spade in dummy and trumped in his hand.

If the diamonds had not divided 2-2, declarer could fall back on the spade finesse which as we see, would have failed.

Copyright ©2014 Larry Matheny

#3

When playing in a team game, there are two results you want to avoid: going down for a large number and giving up a double game swing.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand #15-01	♠ KQ87	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ 4	-	-	Pass	Pass
Vul N/S	♦ 975	1 ♥	DBL	RDBL	4 ♠
	♣ AQ762	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ J2					
♥ KJ10987					
♦ KQJ4					
♣ 4					
	♠ A				
	♥ A53				
	♦ 10832				
	♣ J10853				
	♠ 1096543				
	♥ Q62				
	♦ A6				
	♣ K9				

Bidding: In third seat, West wasn't sure what to open but finally decided on 1 ♥. North made a takeout double, East redoubled to show values, and South jumped to game.

Play: West led the king of diamonds to declarer's ace. Declarer led a low spade to the king and East won the ace. East cashed the ace of hearts and then returned a diamond. West won the jack and played a third round ruffed by declarer. All was left was for declarer to draw the last trump and claim ten tricks.

Why is this hand of interest? At the other table West opened with 4 ♥ and played it there also taking ten tricks. The combined scores of +620 and +420 added to +1040 and a swing of 14 IMPs.

No one really didn't anything wrong and West was to be congratulated for his daring but successful bid.

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!!



TIP OF THE MONTH

The Convention Card – part 1 of a 16-part series

This month: the section titled “general approach section of the convention card”.

The duplicate bridge convention card is an important part of the duplicate bridge experience. Not only does it document the partnership agreement, but it also serves as a reference for the opponents. Please remember that the game of bridge has no secrets; the opponents are entitled to know your and your partner’s bidding and play agreements. The convention card serves this purpose.

To start with, think of the convention card as a folded once sheet of paper with a front and back for your agreements and an inside for recording scores.

The first section is titled the “general approach” and is located on the top of the front side. Here is where you and your partner note general description of what your bidding agreement is. Most players just write “standard American” or “standard” or “std” on the line just below the words “general approach”. “Standard American” is the 5-card major with convenient minor opening bids, used by most bridge players who reside in North America. Hence the term “standard American”.

But, there are other general approaches.

You will see “two over one” game forcing. This approach uses 5-card major and convenient minor opening bids but also uses the agreement that if the opener bids 1 of a major and partner responds 2 of a lower ranking suit, the auction must continue until a game bid is reached. Note that there is an option for “game forcing except when suit rebid”. This means if the responder rebids the suit bid the first time, the game force is off.

Also included in this section of the convention card is the indication of another “general approach”. Some of the other general approaches are “big club” where 1 club bid by an opener is 16+points with no indication of a club suit and “precision” where 2 clubs bid by the opener is a limited opening bid, usually the low end of the “standard American” 1-level opening bid. There are other general approaches used by players in other countries seldom seen in North American events.

Also noted in this section of the convention card is an indication of very light opening bids, overcalls and preempts plus an indication of your agreement for a strong forcing opening.

Examples:

If you and your partner use what many players term as “party bridge”, your general approach is “standard American” with “natural 2 bids” checked.

If you and your partner use weak 2 bids, then your general approach is “standard American” with “2 clubs” checked as your strong forcing opening.

If you and your partner use “two over one” game forcing, just check the box next to one of the 2 variations of this general approach.

For this and all sections of the convention card, agreements described with black type are considered natural (do NOT need to be alerted). Agreements described with red type must be alerted by the bidder’s partner. Agreements described in blue type must be announced by the bidder’s partner.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS”



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!!



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
years 2014 & 2015 only
Sponsored by: TBA**

2015/06/17	70.00%	Linda Odette & Ramesh Chaudhari(NLMers)
2015/06/08	81.25%	John Stahly & Rick Kern(99ers)
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



#61 – A THOUGHTFUL LEAD

	♠ AQT6 ♥ 76 ♦ T976 ♣ QT2	
♠ 752 ♥ AQ93 ♦ 854 ♣ K43	North West East Declarer	♠ KJ98 ♥ J854 ♦ J2 ♣ 876
	♠ 43 ♥ KT2 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ AJ95	

None Vulnerable

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

South's 1NT showed 15-17 HCP so, when North invited game with 2NT, South readily accepted with his top-of-the-line 17-point maximum. After this auction, looking at the West hand only, what would be your opening lead?

Against No Trump contracts, conventional wisdom says "Fourth best from your longest and strongest" and, without pausing for thought, many Wests would follow this advice

and lead a low Heart. But that doesn't work out well on this particular deal. Declarer wins the trick, cashes his Diamonds (ending in Dummy), and runs the ♠Q around to West's King. Now the defense cashes the Hearts but that is all they get and Declarer has his nine tricks.

A more thoughtful West might conclude that perhaps a passive lead is required. Thought 1: There is a good chance that the ♥K is to West's right in Declarer's strong hand. If so, then an opening Heart lead will blow a trick. Thought 2: N-S reached game via an invitational sequence, so the contract may be a close-run thing. Why run the risk of handing Declarer his 9th trick with an aggressive lead? Thought 3: Even if it happens that East has the ♥K, it is somewhat unlikely that the suit will provide more than four tricks for the defense. That being the case, maybe the defense can afford to be patient.

So, with no guarantee of success (opening leads really are something of a crap shoot), West guesses to start with the "top-of-nothing" Spade Seven. Let's savor the ensuing carnage! Declarer finesses Dummy's ♠Q (or ♠T), won by East. Back comes a Heart won by West's Queen. Then another Spade, taken by Dummy's Ace (Declarer cannot afford another Heart lead from East). The Club finesse loses, and now the defense reels off a bunch of major suit winners. The bottom line is down four!

#62 – MEA CULPA

♠ T9654
♥ 763
♦ 7
♣ AJ85

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ 2♦ 4♠ All Pass

♠ K ♥ KJ2 ♦ AQT432 ♣ Q76	<i>North</i>	♠ A2 ♥ QT985 ♦ J98 ♣ T32
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ QJ873 ♥ A4 ♦ K65 ♣ K94	

When these cards were dealt in a team game, both Declarers played in 4♠. At one table, West led a Club and Declarer eventually pitched her Heart loser on the 13th Club, for 10 tricks. At the other table, West found a Heart lead, and now Declarer did not have the timing to draw trumps and then get rid of the Heart loser. Down one!

That adverse game swing cost the match, and West on the losing team apologized profusely to his team-mates for his unsuccessful Club lead. “No problem”, they politely replied, “opening leads are tough, it was just a guess.” And, on that note, the losers went home, with West resolving to re-read “Opening Leads 101”.

But our eagle-eyed readers will have noticed that the real culprit was South! Yes, indeed, 4♠ can be made even with an opening Heart lead. Declarer wins the ♥A, and instead of playing on trumps he cashes the ♣K, finesses the ♣J, cashes the ♣A, and leads the 13th Club on which he pitches his Heart loser. The defense can ruff that last Club, but whether they ruff with the Ace or the King or the Two, they will sacrifice a natural trump trick. They’ll end up scoring the ♦A, a Club ruff, but only one trump trick. So you can return that book to the library, Mr. West, and buy “Exotic Coups for Beginners” as a birthday present for South.

#63 – THIRD TIME LUCKY

	♠ 2 ♥ KQJT ♦ QT86 ♣ AQJ9	
♠ Q9874 ♥ 75 ♦ K94 ♣ 842	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i>	♠ KT63 ♥ A64 ♦ A532 ♣ T7
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AJ5 ♥ 9832 ♦ J7 ♣ K653	

E-W Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led a Spade and Declarer saw an easy route to 10 tricks. He'd get two Spade ruffs in Dummy, added to which there would be three more trump tricks, the ♠A and four Clubs. Seems too easy, what's the catch?

The play went: ♠A, Spade ruff, cross to the ♣K, Spade ruff, Heart to East's Ace, Club won by Dummy, after which

Dummy's last trump was cashed. "Oops!" said Declarer. There was still an enemy trump out, but Declarer could not get back to hand to draw it. Eventually he ran into a Club ruff and that was down one.

Could Declarer have brought home his game by drawing trumps immediately, planning for just one Spade ruff, with the Diamonds providing the 10th trick? Nope! The play goes: ♠A, ♥K is ducked by East (good play!), ♥A wins the next trick, Spade return is ruffed on the board. It's another "Oops!" Now the defense is a step ahead of Declarer, and will score a Spade trick before Declarer can set up his Diamond winner.

To avoid a third "Oops!" Declarer must go to work on the Diamonds at Trick 2. This subtle change in timing leaves the defense with no winning option, and now it is Declarer who is one step ahead of the game. The first chapter in books on card play invariably says "Draw the defenders' trumps before they start ruffing your winners", and then the remaining chapters are dedicated to explaining the numerous exceptions to this rule. Setting up side-suit tricks early is a common such exception.

#64 – PLAYING THE PERCENTAGES

	♠ AQ8 ♥ 643 ♦ K2 ♣ QJ765	
♠ K963 ♥ 9 ♦ JT9 ♣ AT432	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ T4 ♥ 875 ♦ Q8643 ♣ K98
	♠ J752 ♥ AKQJT2 ♦ A75 ♣	

Both Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
			1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass		2♥	Pass
6♥	Pass		Pass	Pass

West leads the ♦J and when Dummy goes down you can count only 11 tricks: six trumps in hand, two Diamonds and a ruff in Dummy, and two Spades (regardless of who holds the ♠K). Where's the 12th trick?

To make your contract, you will need to score a third Spade trick. After the ♠Q has been successfully finessed on the first round, how do you play to the second round of Spades? You are doomed to failure if the missing Spades are 5-1 ... and destined for success if the suit is 3-3 ... so what's the play that gives you the best chance when the Spades are 4-2? The two choices are:

- *Either*, cash the ♠A, hoping that West started with a doubleton King.
- *Or*, lead the ♠J from hand (which West will cover with the King). This caters for East holding the doubleton Ten or doubleton Nine, allowing Declarer's mighty ♠7 to provide the 12th trick!

That should be an easy decision! Kx with West is one winning chance ... Tx or 9x with East is two winning chances. It doesn't need a mathematician to figure out which play is more likely to succeed. After the percentage play brings home the slam, Declarer will avoid saying "My 6♥ was a bit optimistic, but of course I wouldn't have bid it without the Spade Seven". Unless, that is, he wants to infuriate the opponents.

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:



Bloomington-Normal Summer Sectional **In memory of our special friend: Steve Hawthorne**

July 10-12, 2015

Friday and Saturday events: 10:30am & 4:00pm

Sunday swiss teams: 10:30am

UAW Hall

10226 E. 1400 North Rd., Bloomington, IL 61705