



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 10 – October, 2015

16 pages



## October Events

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

**October 5 – club appreciation open pairs      October 12 – open pairs**

**October 19 – open pairs      October 26 – STaC open pairs**

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

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule:**

**Thursday, October 1, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Saturday, October 3, 11:45AM – open pairs – First Christian –SPECIAL LOCATION**

**Monday, October 5, 6:15PM – club appreciation 99ers only pairs – First Christian**

**Wednesday, October 7, 1:15PM - club appreciation 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Thursday, October 8, 11:45AM – club appreciation open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Saturday, October 10, 11:45AM – club appreciation open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Monday, October 12, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian**

**Tuesday, October 13, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club**

**Wednesday, October 14, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Thursday, October 15, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Saturday, October 17, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Monday, October 19, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian**

**Wednesday, October 21, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Thursday, October 22, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Saturday, October 24, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Monday, October 26, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only and special open pairs – First Christian**

**Tuesday, October 27, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club**

**Tuesday, October 27, 6:15PM – special STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place club room**

**Wednesday, October 28, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Wednesday, October 28, 6:15PM – special STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place club room**

**Thursday, October 29, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Centennial Christian**

**Thursday, October 29, 6:15PM – special STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place club room**

**Friday, October 30, 6:15PM – special STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place community room**

**Saturday, October 31, 11:45AM – STaC 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](http://clubresults.acbl.org)**

**Post game online discussions of deals are available at:**

**[mikesbridge.blogspot.com](http://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 9/6/2015 – residents of  
Bloomington-Normal only –  
paid up ACBL members only

- |     |          |                    |
|-----|----------|--------------------|
| 1   | 3,652.96 | Betty Capodice     |
| 2   | 3,314.63 | Steve Babin        |
| *** | 2,557.18 | Laura Addison      |
| 3   | 2,412.83 | Zack Freehill      |
| 4   | 2,227.31 | Eunice Patton      |
| 5   | 2,068.88 | Mike Tomlianovich  |
| *** | 1,735.61 | Steve Hawthorne    |
| 6   | 1,572.67 | Dewey Gronau       |
| 7   | 1,521.35 | Cindy Moore        |
| 8   | 1,472.50 | Ann Schuyler       |
| 9   | 1,420.10 | JoAnn Schroeder    |
| *** | 1,398.35 | Sharad Chitgopekar |
| *** | 1,320.43 | Ed Lombard         |
| 10  | 1,263.31 | Stan Gutzman       |
| 11  | 1,197.83 | Ron Emmett         |
| 12  | 1,174.90 | Charlie Morton     |
| 13  | 1,166.33 | Jeanne Strand      |
| 14  | 1,124.22 | Lori Moore         |
| *** | 1,091.94 | Marian Edmunds     |
| 15  | 1,123.80 | Ivey Weaver        |
| 16  | 1,030.12 | Jean Barnett       |
| 17  | 944.02   | Randall Motchan    |
| 18  | 828.37   | Glen Beaman        |
| *** | 792.95   | Don Strand         |
| 19  | 787.74   | Henrietta Crain    |
| *** | 780.34   | Jack Kessler       |
| *** | 741.06   | Pearl Harris       |
| 20  | 710.11   | Dennis Moll        |
| 21  | 683.43   | Peg Deutsch        |
| 22  | 674.78   | Steve Wulfers      |
| 23  | 654.30   | Dave Freehill      |
| *** | 610.73   | Martin Compton     |
| *** | 570.80   | Ann Farnsworth     |
| *** | 567.22   | Ruth Wettaw        |
| 24  | 582.64   | Jeff Furler        |
| *** | 481.88   | Bev Upp            |
| 25  | 521.80   | Stevie Joslin      |



### Other players:

- |     |           |                             |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------|
| *** | 12,741.55 | Dick Benson-LeRoy           |
|     | 11,740.82 | Chris Benson-LeRoy          |
|     | 4,566.46  | John Seng-Champaign         |
|     | 4,448.83  | Larry Matheny-Colorado      |
| *** | 4,073.45  | Alan Wienman-Morton         |
|     | 4,015.74  | Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap         |
|     | 3,847.29  | Ron Sholes-Springfield      |
|     | 3,625.89  | Kish Devaraj-Georgia        |
|     | 2,751.79  | Paul Lindauer-Varna         |
|     | 2,493.34  | Georgia Heth-Morton         |
|     | 2,437.71  | Gail Moon-Tennessee         |
|     | 2,481.24  | Pat Carrington-Champaign    |
|     | 2,438.97  | Ray Russ-Henry              |
|     | 2,445.39  | Carole Sholes-Springfield   |
|     | 2,321.34  | Margaret Hansell-Champaign  |
|     | 2,291.27  | Mary Allen-Peoria           |
|     | 2,145.25  | Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign |
|     | 1,855.66  | Hank Hoffman-East Peoria    |
| *** | 1,776.22  | John Burdon                 |
|     | 1,773.52  | Tim Cull-Springfield        |
|     | 1,623.73  | Marilyn Stickel-Lacon       |
|     | 1,555.12  | Dennis Fitton-Champaign     |
|     | 1,532.31  | Bobbie Straker-Pekin        |
|     | 1,538.64  | John Maloney-Champaign      |
|     | 1,270.74  | Jim Moon-Tennessee          |
| *** | 916.41    | Floyd Sherry-Eureka         |
|     | 867.50    | Bill Bulfer-East Peoria     |
|     | 856.08    | Phil Kenney-Eureka          |
|     | 772.27    | Doug Steele-Seymour         |
|     | 660.17    | Carole Miller-Champaign     |

\*\*\* deceased



# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

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#1 -

When the obvious defensive tricks have been collected, strong players will try to create one more.

## Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-14	♠ AK543	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ 65	-	1♠	Pass	2♥
Vul E/W	♦ AJ2	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♥
	♣ 654	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ J102	□				
♥ J84					
♦ 104					
♣ KQJ32					
	♠ 7				
	♥ AKQ932				
	♦ K87				
	♣ 1098				
	♠ Q986				
	♥ 107				
	♦ Q9653				
	♣ A7				

**BIDDING:** After North rebid spades showing a minimum hand, South jumped to game in hearts.


**Play:** West led the king of clubs and East overtook with the ace to return a low club. West won the jack and cashed the queen of clubs. On the third club, East played a discouraging three of diamonds. Realizing South must have no more outside losers, West continued with a fourth club. East trumped with the ten and West's jack of hearts had just been promoted into a trick.

After winning the third club, most of the West players simply exited passively with a spade. They were soon disappointed when declarer claimed ten tricks.

#2 -

Opening leads are difficult. When your opponents bid a slam, do you lead your ace or will that give them their twelfth trick? It's not often clear.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-14	♠ AK	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ K873	2♥	3NT	Pass	6♠
Vul E/W	♦ AJ2	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ KQ62				
♣ 72		♣ 95			
♥ AQ9652		♥ 104			
♦ Q94		♦ 107653			
♣ 109		♣ J874			
	♠ QJ108643				
	♥ J				
	♦ K8				
	♣ A53				

**BIDDING:** North's leap to 3NT showed either a strong balanced hand with 19-21 high card points, or one with a long running minor with outside controls. South's minor suit holdings convinced him that North held the balanced hand so he bid the slam.

**Play:** Reluctant to lead his ace, West placed the ten of clubs on the table. Declarer saw he had twelve tricks so his attention went to the overtrick. He won the opening lead in dummy followed by the ace-king of spades. Next, he led a club to his ace and another to the queen. When West discarded a spade, declarer trumped the last club in his hand. Now he led all but one of his spades to come to this ending:

```

      ♥K ♦AJ2
♥A
♦Q94
♠3 ♥J ♦K8
  
```

When declarer played the last spade, West had to give up a diamond and declarer discarded dummy's king of hearts. Now the king and another diamond brought in the valuable overtrick for declarer.

It's often wrong to lead an ace against a slam but here it would have worked.

#3 -

When playing in a pairs game you should be on the lookout for overtricks. In a Swiss team game however, ensuring the contract is your goal.

**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)**

#15-16	♠ 963	West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ K10976	-	-	2♣	2NT
Vul E/W	♦ 1083	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
	♣ AQ	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 2				
	♥ J5				
	♦ Q762				
	♣ K109863				
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"></div>				
	♠ AK4				
	♥ AQ82				
	♦ KJ54				
	♣ J5				

**BIDDING:** East opened a weak-2 bid and South overcall 2NT. North transferred to hearts and holding a maximum and four hearts, South jumped to game.

**Play:** West led his singleton spade to South's ace. Declarer saw four possible losers: one spade, two diamonds, and one club. Declarer drew trumps ending in dummy and then led a low diamond to the nine, jack and West's queen. West shifted to a low club and declarer stopped to determine who held which missing honor cards. Declarer thought it unlikely East would have opened a weak-2 holding the ace of diamonds and the king of clubs along with the QJ of spades. Following this reasoning, declarer played the queen of clubs and it won. It was now easy to knock out the ace of diamonds and establish the king for a discard of one of dummy's spade losers. Making the overtrick resulted in a good score.

Note if the club finesse had lost and East returned a spade, declarer could still establish a diamond trick for the spade loser. Declarer's mental placement of the honors meant West would hold the ace of diamonds and he would have no spade to cash.

However, if in a team game declarer should refuse the club finesse and establish the diamond king for a spade discard. After all, some players might open 2S holding all of those honor cards and the chance for an overtrick is not worth the risk.

#4 -

The overcall serves several purposes. It may be an attempt to buy the contract, suggest a lead, impede the opponents, or encourage a sacrifice. While these are noble endeavors, sometimes there is a price.

**Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)**

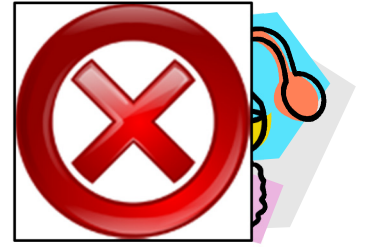
#15-17	♠ Q9	West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ J10952	-	-	-	1NT
Vul E/W	♦ K10	Pass	2♦	3♦	3♥
	♣ Q432	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
♠ 8543	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♥ Q8		Pass			
♦ J7					
♣ J10975					
	♠ A102				
	♥ 74				
	♦ A985432				
	♣ A				
	♠ KJ76				
	♥ AK63				
	♦ Q6				
	♣ K86				

**BIDDING:** North's 2♦ bid was the Jacoby Transfer showing hearts. East overcalled in his long diamond suit and South bid hearts to show at least three. Although her diamond king was perhaps poorly placed, North continued on to game.

**Play:** West led the jack of diamonds to his partner's ace. East continued with a second diamond won by the king in dummy. Outside of the trump suit, declarer identified four possible losers: 1 spade, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. Declarer continued with the top two hearts and was relieved when the queen dropped. Next, he led a low spade to the queen and East's ace. East exited with a spade won by the king and declarer stopped to examine the available information. It appeared East had seven diamonds along with two hearts. To find out more about the hand, declarer cashed the jack of spades and followed with a spade ruff in dummy. Now the picture was complete: East's distribution was 3-2-7-1 and the singleton club was very likely the ace. A low club from dummy confirmed declarer's picture of the hand and he had his ten tricks.

Would declarer have succeeded without the blueprint left by East? We will never know.

**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 4 of a 16-part series

**This month: the section titled “opening 1 of a minor suit”.**

**Like the major suit opening section, the first indication for opening 1 of a minor suit is to show the minimum suit length for each of 1 club and 1 diamond. Check whether your opening bid of 1 club shows a minimum length of 4, 3, 2, or other cards. Note that other than 4 or 3 cards must be alerted. Also, some players want to reserve the 1 diamond opening for 4 or more cards so they use a short club of 2 cards when they hold a 4-4-3-2 pattern. Recommendation: 1 of a minor should always should at least 3 cards in the suit.**

**The next line is for the 1 diamond opening bid. Mark the minimum suite length for the 1 diamond opening bid. Most players check 3 for both 1 club and 1 diamond opening bids.**

**Similar to major suit openings, indicate whether a double raise without an opponent’s overcall is forcing (opening hand), invitational (slightly less than an opening hand), or weak, which must be alerted. Most players treat a double raise as invitational. Indicate a double raise with an opponent’s overcall is forcing (opening hand), invitational (slightly less than an opening hand), or weak, which must be alerted. Many players treat a double raise in competition as weak. For a forcing raise show if a jump-shift to the other minor is forcing (rarely used) or if a single raise is forcing (called inverted minors).**

**If your partnership opens 1 club and, when responding, bypasses a minor suit of 4 cards or more to bid 1 of a major, indicate this on the next line. It is not a good idea to bypass a 4 card diamond suit when responding to a 1 club opening bid.**

**The next line is for a direct response of 1NT to 1 of a minor opening. Show the high card point range; most players use 6 to 10 HCPS. Note: this response denies holding a 4+ card major suit.**

**The next line is for a direct response of 2NT to 1 of a minor opening. Show if this response is forcing (an opening hand) or invitational (slightly less than an opening hand). Most players use this response as invitational. Then show the high card point range; most players use 11 to 12 HCPS. Note: this response denies holding a 4+ card major suit.**

**The next line is for a direct response of 3NT to 1 of a minor opening. Show the high card point range; most players use 13 to 15 HCPS. Note: this response denies holding a 4+ card major suit.**



**The last line is for any other agreements for 1 of a minor opening bids and their responses. Any of these must be alerted.**

**Next month's tip: The section titled "opening 2 of a suit".**



**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**

<b>2015/09/02</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Gary Kemp &amp; John Ford(NLMers)</b>
<b>2015/08/17</b>	<b>73.33%</b>	<b>Mary Lou Gold &amp; Gaye Hoselton(99ers)</b>
<b>2015/08/10</b>	<b>70.56%</b>	<b>Linda &amp; Dave Odette(99ers)</b>
<b>2015/07/29</b>	<b>71.25%</b>	<b>Marilyn &amp; Gene Byers(NLMers)</b>
<b>2015/07/15</b>	<b>71.67%</b>	<b>Mary Tweedie &amp; Michelle Tomlin(NLMers)</b>
<b>2015/06/17</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Linda Odette &amp; Ramesh Chaudhari(NLMers)</b>
<b>2015/06/08</b>	<b>81.25%</b>	<b>John Stahly &amp; Rick Kern(99ers)</b>
<b>2015/03/23</b>	<b>71.79%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Jeff Furler</b>
<b>2015/03/02</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Lynn Steffen &amp; Bev Branning (99ers)</b>
<b>2015/02/04</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>John Stahly &amp; John Ford (NLMers)</b>
<b>2015/02/02</b>	<b>71.30%</b>	<b>John Stahly &amp; Rick Kern (99ers)</b>
<b>2015/01/05</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>Kay Marvin &amp; Terri Huebsch (99ers)</b>
<b>2014/10/30</b>	<b>77.50%</b>	<b>Doug Lamb &amp; John Ford (99ers)</b>
<b>2014/10/08</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Bev Branning &amp; Sallie Boge (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/09/08</b>	<b>73.89%</b>	<b>Vi Kothe &amp; Kirk Kimmel (99ers)</b>
<b>2014/08/27</b>	<b>70.56%</b>	<b>Jim Swanke &amp; Jason Cannell (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/08/21</b>	<b>71.48%</b>	<b>Tom Teeters &amp; Jerry Oswald</b>
<b>2014/08/20</b>	<b>70.56%</b>	<b>Mary Tweedie &amp; Jason Cannell (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/07/21</b>	<b>74.31%</b>	<b>Linda Odette &amp; Joyce Werner (99ers)</b>
<b>2014/07/16</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Marilyn &amp; Gene Byers (99ers)</b>
<b>2014/07/09</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Mary Houska &amp; Lynda Frankeberger (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/06/21</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>John Maloney &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2014/06/11</b>	<b>70.85%</b>	<b>Bev Branning &amp; Jim Fernstrom (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/04/28</b>	<b>70.24%</b>	<b>Tom Teeters &amp; Steve Wulfers</b>
<b>2014/04/24</b>	<b>72.50%</b>	<b>Jeff Furler &amp; Jason Cannell</b>
<b>2014/04/21</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Linda Odette &amp; Joyce Werner (99ers)</b>
<b>2014/04/16</b>	<b>72.00%</b>	<b>Joyce Clay &amp; Jason Cannell (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/04/14</b>	<b>72.92%</b>	<b>Jeff Furler &amp; Hank Hoffman</b>
<b>2014/04/10</b>	<b>75.56%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Jason Cannell</b>
<b>2014/04/02</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Bob Ragland &amp; Jim Swanke (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/03/26</b>	<b>73.33%</b>	<b>Zoe Freeman &amp; Jim Fernstrom (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/03/19</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Kirk Kimmel &amp; Jim Swanke (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/02/19</b>	<b>71.67%</b>	<b>Carroll Kinnaman &amp; Jerry Oswald (NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/01/29</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Bob Clay(NLMers)</b>
<b>2014/01/11</b>	<b>70.53%</b>	<b>Betty Capodice &amp; Jason Cannell</b>

## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #73 – A TWO-EDGED SWORD

	♠ T762 ♥ 43 ♦ Q654 ♣ Q64	
♠ J4 ♥ 85 ♦ K9832 ♣ J975	<i>North</i>	♠ K53 ♥ AT2 ♦ AT7 ♣ AT83
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ AQ98 ♥ KQJ976 ♦ J ♣ K2	

*E-W Vulnerable*

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT #
2♥	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

# 15-17 HCP

West boldly competed to 3♦, but South pushed on to 3♥, a precarious contract which depended on playing the Spades for one loser. Given the apparent lack of entries to Dummy, that was likely to be problematic.

West led his 4<sup>th</sup> best Diamond and, as this was the Three, it was clear that West had led from a five-card suit. East won his Ace, and Declarer ruffed the Diamond continuation. Before drawing trumps, Declarer played the ♣K, hoping to force an entry to Dummy. But E-W were up to the challenge. West followed with the Club Nine, the start of a high-low count signal, telling East that West had started with an *even* number of Clubs. Armed with that information, East could duck the trick, safe in the knowledge that Declarer was not trying to sneak through her singleton King. Then Declarer played the ♥K losing to the Ace, ruffed the Diamond return, and drew the remaining trumps.

The play in the Diamond suit had made it clear that West started with the ♦K, so East needed to hold the ♠K to make up his 15-17 HCP. Should Declarer play ♠A followed by a *low* Spade (hoping that East had started with Kx)? Or ♠A followed by the *Queen* (hoping that West had started with Jx)?

How was Declarer to know? West's Club count signal (which had helped East to find the correct play when the ♣K was led) was a two-edged sword, as it also gave away the distribution to Declarer. By now West was known to have started with five Diamonds, an even number of Clubs (surely four), and two Hearts. That left two Spades, and Declarer's only chance was to play ♠A followed by the Queen, hoping that West had started with ♠Jx. Making 9 tricks!

#74 – READING THE LEAD

	♠ AJ7 ♥ 8543 ♦ 876 ♣ AJ9	
♠ Q42 ♥ QJ962 ♦ KJ2 ♣ Q7	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 8 ♥ K7 ♦ AQ9543 ♣ 6543
	♠ KT9653 ♥ AT ♦ T ♣ KT82	

*Both Vulnerable*

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
		Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	4♠	All Pass

East's Weak Two shows 5-10 HCP and a 6-card suit. N-S cruise into 4♠, West leads the ♦2 won by East's Ace, then a low Diamond, ruffed by Declarer, West following with the Jack. Looking just at the N-S hands, what can you deduce from the play so far? And how do you play the hand?

The bidding tells Declarer that East started with six Diamonds and West with three. If West had KQx he would have led the King ... if East had ♦AK he would have played

the King on the first trick ... therefore (unless there is some fiendish false-carding going on) West started with ♦KJ and East with ♦AQ.

Who has the ♠Q? Generally speaking, Declarer would play the Spades from the top, playing for the drop of the ♠Q in one or two rounds. This line is a slight favorite over the alternative of finessing (one way or the other) against the Queen. But the odds changed when East showed long Diamonds (leaving less room in his hand for Spade cards), so here Declarer correctly decides to cash the ♠K and finesse the ♠J on the second round.

That's the first guess successfully negotiated, now where is that ♠Q? Declarer cannot be sure, so she plays ♥A and another Heart, hoping to learn more, and on the second Heart East wins his King. At this point Declarer can be fairly certain that East started with 1=2=6=4 distribution. As East has four Clubs to West's two does that make East more likely to hold the Queen? Not in this case! East has shown up with 9 HCP, there's no room left in his 5-10 hand for the ♠Q. So, Declarer plays West for that card and, thanks to a little counting, she brings home her vulnerable game with an overtrick.

#75 – DIFFERENT CONTRACT, SAME PLAY

	♠ KQT54 ♥ KQ63 ♦ 987 ♣ 8	
♠ 9876 ♥ J8 ♦ 52 ♣ QT765	North  West East  South	♠ A ♥ T9752 ♦ A643 ♣ KJ2
	♠ J32 ♥ A4 ♦ KQJT ♣ A943	

*Both Vulnerable*

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	??

After this beginning the contract might reasonably be 3NT (played by South) or 4♠ (by North). Let's dispose of the 3NT contract first, because this one our readers will make in their sleep. West leads a Club, Declarer holds up until the third round (in case the Clubs are 5-3), and makes her contract when both enemy Aces are with the short Clubs. Nine nervous tricks!

Now watch *North* declare 4♠ and see where he goes wrong. East (aggressively) leads a Club, and Dummy's Ace wins the trick. Then a Spade is conceded to East's Ace and the Club continuation is ruffed by Declarer. Next, trumps are played but Declarer comes unstuck when the suit is 4-1. East will get in with the ♦A and persist with Clubs, at which point Declarer will have lost trump control. Down one!

North should have taken a leaf out of the No Trump playbook. That hold-up play in Clubs, which is almost routine when playing No Trump, can also work in a suit contract. North can win the opening Club lead with Dummy's Ace but, when East gets in with the ♠A and continues Clubs, the correct play is to refrain from ruffing immediately. When a third round of Clubs is played, North must ruff, but West never gets in again to do damage with his Club winners. What's good for No Trump is also sometimes good for suit play!

#76 – DUPLICATE DECISION

	♠ 543 ♥ K3 ♦ QT965 ♣ KQ5	
♠ 876 ♥ A6 ♦ A42 ♣ J9732	North  West East  Declarer	♠ QJT9 ♥ QJT75 ♦ 7 ♣ T86
	♠ AK2 ♥ 9842 ♦ KJ83 ♣ A4	

None Vulnerable

**South West North East**

1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

In most forms of bridge, Declarer's main objective is to make the contract, with overtricks being only a secondary consideration. But in duplicate bridge scoring (aka matchpoints) overtricks loom large and it is not unheard of for Declarer to risk the contract in search of an overtrick. Here is a case in point.

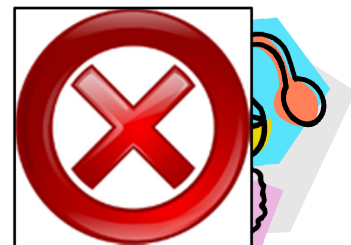
South opens a 15-17 No Trump, North raises to game, and West leads a Club. Declarer wins that trick and knocks out the ♦A. Back comes a Club, at which point there are nine

tricks for the taking in the shape of two Spades, four Diamonds and three Clubs. Is it time for Declarer to fold his tent, claim nine tricks and move on to the next hand? Not necessarily!

The matchpoint player is always looking for that extra trick. Is there one? The only possibility is in Hearts, but leading towards the ♥K (before cashing nine tricks) is not without risk, and it's possible that East will take Dummy's King with his Ace and that the defense will then cash three or four more Heart tricks, defeating the contract.

Is it just a 50-50 shot? No, the odds favor going for the overtrick. Half the time the ♥A will be onside and Declarer gets his overtrick and a good score. And even when the ♥A is offside it's unlikely that the defense will then run the suit, because (a) the Hearts may be blocked (picture West with QT<sub>x</sub> or J<sub>x</sub> or similar holdings, or East with AQT or AJ or the like); (b) even if the Hearts are not blocked, the defense may do the job themselves (for example, East may hold AQJ<sub>x</sub> and not realize that, after winning the ♥A, he must return a *low* Heart). It's a case of "Heads Declarer wins, tails she loses only occasionally".

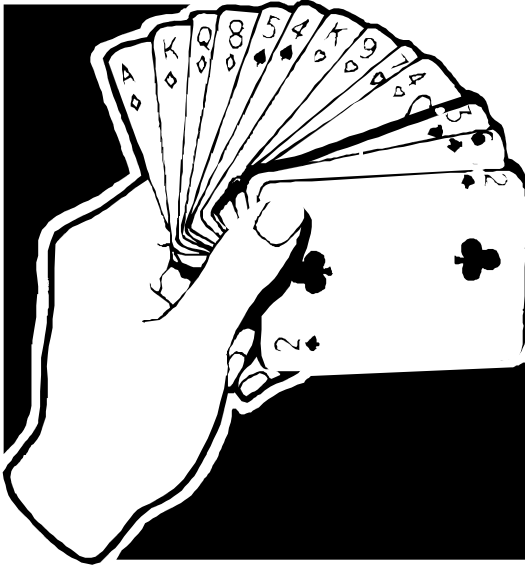
**Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!**



**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:



## Silver Leaves Duplicate Bridge Sectional Oct 9-11, 2015

Fri: 10:30 – stratified open pairs

Fri: 4:00 – stratified open charity pairs

Sat: 10:30 – 99ers only pairs

Sat: 10:30 & 4:00 – 2-session stratified open pairs

Sun: 10:30 – swiss teams – 2 session play through

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