



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 12 – December, 2015

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 7 – open pairs December 14 – Christmas party and club championship open pairs

December 21 – open pairs December 28 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Wednesday, December 2, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 3, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 5, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 7, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, December 8, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, December 9, 1:15PM – club champ 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 10, 11:45AM – club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Life master achievement celebration for Marsha Woodbury

Saturday, December 12, 11:45AM – club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 14, 6:15PM – club championship 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, December 16, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 17, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 19, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 21, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, December 23, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 24, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 26 – NO GAME

Monday, December 28 – NO EVENING 99ers GAME

Wednesday, December 30 – NO GAME

Thursday, December 31 – NO GAME

Saturday, January 2 – NO GAME

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

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 11/6/2015 –
residents of Bloomington-Normal only



paid up ACBL members only

- 1 **3,661.87 Betty Capodice**
- 2 **3,349.00 Steve Babin**
- *** **2,557.18 Laura Addison**
- 3 **2,458.77 Zack Freehill**
- 4 **2,282.33 Eunice Patton**
- 5 **2,082.03 Mike Tomlianovich**
- *** **1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne**
- 6 **1,587.77 Cindy Moore**
- 7 **1,574.06 Dewey Gronau**
- 8 **1,537.41 Ann Schuyler**
- 9 **1,509.74 JoAnn Schroeder**
- *** **1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar**
- *** **1,320.43 Ed Lombard**
- 10 **1,263.31 Stan Gutzman**
- 11 **1,208.51 Ron Emmett**
- 12 **1,190.90 Charlie Morton**
- 13 **1,171.61 Jeanne Strand**
- 14 **1,168.17 Lori Moore**
- 15 **1,126.00 Ivey Weaver**
- *** **1,091.94 Marian Edmunds**
- 16 **1,034.94 Jean Barnett**
- 17 **950.27 Randall Motchan**
- 18 **833.64 Glen Beaman**
- *** **792.95 Don Strand**
- 19 **791.44 Henrietta Crain**
- *** **780.34 Jack Kessler**
- *** **741.06 Pearl Harris**
- 20 **715.33 Dennis Moll**
- 21 **693.67 Steve Wulfers**
- 22 **687.97 Peg Deutsch**
- 23 **669.12 Dave Freehill**
- 24 **622.50 Jeff Furler**
- *** **610.73 Martin Compton**
- *** **570.80 Ann Farnsworth**
- *** **567.22 Ruth Wettaw**
- 25 **543.66 Stevie Joslin**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy**
- 11,834.23 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 4,595.79 John Seng-Champaign**
- 4,494.12 Larry Matheny-Colorado**
- *** **4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton**
- 4,015.74 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap**
- 3,910.38 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 3,692.46 Kish Devaraj-Georgia**
- 2,787.16 Paul Lindauer-Varna**
- 2,493.34 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,492.34 Pat Carrington-Champaign**
- 2,486.68 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,466.25 Ray Russ-Henry**
- 2,446.96 Gail Moon-Tennessee**
- 2,358.83 Mary Allen-Peoria**
- 2,324.88 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 2,157.23 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign**
- 1,869.49 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria**
- 1,781.14 Tim Cull-Springfield**
- *** **1,776.22 John Burdon**
- 1,643.65 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 1,559.77 Dennis Fitton-Champaign**
- 1,557.71 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 1,532.31 Bobbie Straker-Pekin**
- 1,279.89 Jim Moon-Tennessee**
- *** **916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka**
- 891.03 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**
- 861.86 Phil Kenney-Eureka**
- 773.43 Doug Steele-Seymour**

*** deceased



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#1 -

As declarer, many players just look for the tricks necessary to make their contract. While that approach may work at Rubber Bridge and in most team games, it will not win many matchpoints in a pairs event.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-22	♠ 76	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ K1052	Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Vul E/W	♦ 98	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♣
	♣ AQJ65	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♠ 1032		Pass			
♥ 76		Pass			
♦ AJ107					
♣ K1072					
	♠ 954				
	♥ Q843				
	♦ 6432				
	♣ 93				
	♠ AKQJ8				
	♥ AJ9				
	♦ KQ5				
	♣ 84				

BIDDING: South's opening bid showed a balanced hand with 20-21 high card points. North first used Stayman in search of a heart fit and then stopped in 3NT.

Play: At one table, West led the jack of diamonds and declarer won the king. This novice declarer counted nine tricks: 5 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club and promptly cashed them for a very poor score.

At the next table, a more experienced declarer won the king of diamond and took the dangerous club finesse. When that won, he led a low heart to his jack. When that finesse also won, he led another club to repeat the finesse and then cashed the ace of clubs. East showed out but this declarer ended with twelve tricks: 5 spades, 3 hearts, 1 diamond, and 3 clubs. He had a better score.

At the next table, the expert declarer won the king of diamonds, took the club finesse, took the heart finesse, cashed the ace-king of hearts, and then ran the spades. On the last spade West was squeezed; he could not keep the ace of diamonds and protect the clubs. This declarer took all of the


tricks. He had a great score. Matchpoints is a different game.

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#2 -

Once the auction is over, it is too often forgotten. On this hand the bidding drew a map for the defenders but they failed to read it.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-23	♠ AKQ42	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ K94	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Vul E/W	♦ K3	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
	♣ Q54	Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
♠ 1098		Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣
♥ 76		Pass	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
♦ AJ82		Pass	Pass		
♣ A962		Pass			
	♠ 753				
	♥ J3				
	♦ 109654				
	♣ 873				
	♠ J6				
	♥ AQ10852				
	♦ Q7				
	♣ KJ10				

BIDDING: South's two heart response was game forcing and North raised to set the trump suit. South cue bid clubs to show a control and North did the same for diamonds. South had no more to say but North launched Roman Keycard Blackwood. The five club response showed two aces were missing so North reluctantly stopped at the five-level.

Play: Possessing a normally healthy aversion to leading an ace, West started by leading a trump. Declarer had no trouble drawing trumps and discarding three clubs on the spade suit before conceding a diamond trick.


While the lead of an ace is frequently wrong, West should have listened more closely to the auction. It was clear North-South were headed for a slam until they discovered they were missing two aces. West should cash those two tricks before they get away.

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#3 -

Good defenders will have good communication with their partners. Proper signaling to show strength and distribution is extremely important. However, they must realize that declarer is also listening.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-24	♠ 986		West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ Q85		-	-	Pass	1♥
Vul E/W	♦ AKQ53		Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	♣ 54		Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
♠ AQ1075		♠ J43	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
♥ 1063		♥ 7	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
♦ 6		♦ J10974	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 9863		♣ AJ72	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ K2					
	♥ AKJ942					
	♦ 82					
	♣ KQ10					

BIDDING: North made an aggressive, game forcing response of two diamonds. South showed slam interest by cue bidding spades and North's cue showed, by agreement, two of the top three honors in diamonds. South checked for keycards with 4NT and was disappointed to discover they were missing two aces.


Play: West led the six of diamonds and declarer did not like the contract. He won the ace and led a heart to his ace and followed with the king as East discarded a low club. He continued with a third heart followed by the king of diamonds. West discarded the seven of spades and that was more bad news. That meant the diamonds weren't breaking 3-3 and it also appeared the ace of spades was in the West hand. Declarer saw his best chance was to discard a spade on the queen of diamonds and hope the jack of clubs was in the East hand. He discarded the spade and led a club to his ten. This won the trick and he lost only to the two black aces.

There was no reason for West to announce she had the ace of spades. The auction made it clear declarer was missing two aces so her partner was already aware of this. Declarer's alternate line was to discard the ten of clubs and lead a spade toward the ace. Would he have tried this without West's signal? We will never know.

#4 -

There are so many conventions available it's difficult to decide which ones you and your partner should use. Most take time to fully understand and then they must be remembered when invoked. However, there are several that are worth the time and energy required.

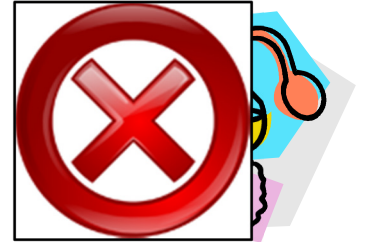
Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-25	♠ 9	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ KJ1043	-	1♥	Pass	2♦
Vul E/W	♦ AQJ95	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
	♣ K10	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
♠ J87654		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 86		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ 4					
♣ AJ43					
	♠ A1032				
	♥ A				
	♦ K1087632				
	♣ 2				

BIDDING: Although North was surprised to see his partner's game forcing two diamond response, he followed with a splinter bid of three spades. This showed diamond support and shortness in the spade suit. The five club response to Blackwood showed one ace and South bid the slam.

Play: West led the ace of clubs and declarer soon claimed the rest. In a small local game, only half of the field reached this great slam. The splinter bid is a powerful tool.

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 6 of a 16-part series

This month: The section titled “other conventional calls”.

It would help if you have a copy of the convention card to follow along.

Anything you and your partner agree on that is written in this section **MUST** be alerted.

There are some items to select:

New minor forcing – Whenever opener or responder rebids a major suit, you are showing a 6-card suit. In order to find a 5-3 fit with partner when responder has the 5-card major, you need this agreement to find this 5-3 fit.

Example: partner opens 1C.

You have a 5-card heart suit and 11 HCPs. You respond 1H. Partner rebids 1NT (denies 4 hearts and 4 spades).

You rebid 2D, new minor forcing, shows the 5th card in the major and 10+ HCPs and not necessarily holding diamonds.

Opener rebids 2H showing 3-card support. You bid game or pass depending on the strength of your hand. If partner has less than 3 of the responder’s 5-card major, opener rebids 2NT.

Weak jump shifts – In standard bidding, your partner opens the bidding. If you bid a higher ranking suit at the next level, a jump shift, this shows 19+ HCPs and is slam forcing. Since this situation rarely occurs, many players use a weak jump shift. The responder now shows a 6-card or longer suit with less than 6 HCPs. This agreement is very useful for disrupting the opponents bidding. Opener will pass responder’s weak jump shift.

There are many other agreements that can be included and written in this section: 4th suit forcing, help suit game try, short suit game try, western cue bid, SOS redouble, Lebenson over reverses, etc.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “special doubles”.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Year 2015 only
Sponsored by: TBA

2015/11/28	72.22%	Ann Schuyler & Zach Freehill
2015/11/2	71.35%	Ann Schuyler & Dennis Moll
2015/10/28	71.11%	Gary Kemp & John Ford(NLMers)
2015/10/10	73.66%	Lane O'Connor & Steve Wulfers
2015/09/02	71.11%	Gary Kemp & John Ford(NLMers)
2015/08/17	73.33%	Mary Lou Gold & Gaye Hoselton(99ers)
2015/08/10	70.56%	Linda & Dave Odette(99ers)
2015/07/29	71.25%	Marilyn & Gene Byers(NLMers)
2015/07/15	71.67%	Mary Tweedie & Michelle Tomlin(NLMers)
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)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#81 – RUFFS IN THE LONG HAND

	♠ JT98 ♥ AK74 ♦ K52 ♣ T2	
♠ A32 ♥ QJT ♦ J97 ♣ AQJ8	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ 9832 ♦ QT863 ♣ K94
	♠ KQ765 ♥ 65 ♦ A4 ♣ 7653	

We'll spare you the auction, but it looks like Partner's been overbidding again, as you find yourself declaring 4♠ on slender values. The good news is that the hands fit well and after the opening lead of the ♥Q you actually have a chance. You have four natural trump tricks and four side-suit winners, so the other two must come from ruffs. The obvious solution is to ruff two Clubs in Dummy (the "short hand"). Do you see any snags?

The problem with going after Club ruffs in Dummy is that the lead must be lost twice. If the trumps are 3-1 this will allow the defense to lead three rounds of trumps, holding Dummy's ruffs to just one and leaving Declarer a trick short. The

solution is to go after *three* ruffs in *Declarer's* hand. That way ten tricks are reached via Dummy's three natural trump tricks, plus Declarer's three ruffs, plus the four side-suit winners. So, Declarer wins the opening lead with the ♥A, cashes ♥K, ruffs a Heart, cashes ♦A and ♦K and ruffs a Diamond. Declarer eventually reaches Dummy with a trump, and can score that third ruff in the long hand.

When Declarer is ruffing those red suits she will take care to ruff high, thereby ensuring that she actually can reach Dummy later on. If, after taking two low ruffs, Declarer left herself with ♠KQ7, West would be able to thwart Declarer's plan.

P.S. Yes, an opening trump lead sets the contract.

#82 – A MATTER OF TIMING

	♠ A964 ♥ QT9632 ♦ ♣ KQ3	
♠ 83 ♥ KJ ♦ KQT72 ♣ JT96	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 752 ♥ 875 ♦ AJ86 ♣ A52
	♠ KQJT ♥ A4 ♦ 9543 ♣ 874	

E-W Vulnerable

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

4♠ is a precarious contract, and requires careful timing if Declarer is to succeed. West leads the ♦K, which Declarer ruffs in Dummy. What are the dangers, and how will Declarer overcome them?

Some Heart tricks are required, but it won't do to draw trumps and then play on Hearts, in that case the defense will cash their Diamonds. Better timing is required and Declarer

must play on Hearts first, allowing Dummy to handle a Diamond continuation. So, the ♥A is cashed, and a Heart lost to West's King. Back comes a Diamond, ruffed in Dummy, what next?

It's still too soon to draw trumps! That would leave Dummy without a quick entry to the Hearts, and the defense would get in with their ♣A and again have Diamond winners to cash. So, Declarer makes another fine play, he leads Dummy's ♣K! Now East has only losing options:

- He can take his ♣A and persist with Diamonds, in which case Dummy ruffs (with the Ace!), trumps are drawn, and the ♣Q is an entry to Dummy's Hearts.
- He can take the ♣A and return a Club (knocking out Dummy's entry), in which case Declarer can scamper home on a cross-ruff, scoring one Heart, one Club, and all eight of those trumps.
- He can duck the ♣A, in which case it's another cross-ruff.

That was delicately timed, as drawing even a single round of trumps early in the play would be a mistake. Look what happens: Diamond opening lead is ruffed, Spade to Declarer's King, ♥A, Heart to West's King, Diamond ruff, ♥Q ruffed by West, ♠J covered by the King and Ace, Club to Dummy's Queen. Now Declarer has an awkward guess ... if the remaining two enemy trumps are split then Dummy's Ace must be cashed before running the Hearts ... but if East has both missing trumps (the actual case) then the Hearts must be played first. It's better to avoid that guess!

#83 – AN ESSENTIAL PRECAUTION

	♠ K ♥ J854 ♦ J75 ♣ AKQJ6	
♠ Q932 ♥ 9763 ♦ A6 ♣ 875	<i>North</i>	♠ 854 ♥ K ♦ KQ982 ♣ T942
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AJT76 ♥ AQT2 ♦ T43 ♣ 3	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

N-S zip into 4♥, and West sensibly leads the unbid suit. After the defense has cashed three Diamonds, East exits a Spade and now the contract depends on Declarer picking up the trumps for no losers. Any thoughts?

Of course, Declarer will finesse against East for the ♥K and the lazy way of doing that is to run the Jack around, thereby keeping the lead in Dummy for a repeat finesse, if necessary. But, alas for Declarer, there is no repeat finesse! East's King covers the ♥J and, when East shows out on the second Heart, Declarer realizes that he has blundered! Now West's Heart Nine will eventually score a trick and Declarer is down one.

It was necessary for Declarer to lead a *low* Heart from the board, an essential precaution against East having a singleton King. This is the kind of problem that nobody gets wrong when they see it in the newspaper. But in the heat of battle it is a different story, as evidenced at a recent club duplicate game where four (embarrassed) Declarers managed to lose a trump trick and go down.

#84 – A SHOW-OFF SQUEEZE

	♠ K87 ♥ AKJ84 ♦ 6 ♣ K982	
♠ QJT654 ♥ T653 ♦ 52 ♣ 3	North West East Declarer	♠ 3 ♥ Q7 ♦ 987 ♣ AQJT765
	♠ A92 ♥ 92 ♦ AKQJT43 ♣ 4	

Both Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
			1♥	3♣
3♦	Pass		3NT	Pass
6♦	Pass		Pass	Pass

Against 6♦ West led a Club, won by East's Ten. Hoping for a trump promotion, East returned a low Club, but Declarer could afford to ruff high and draw trumps. There are 11 tricks on top, where's the 12th?

Plan A is to cash the top Hearts and ruff a Heart, hoping that the ♥Q comes down in three rounds. That happens to

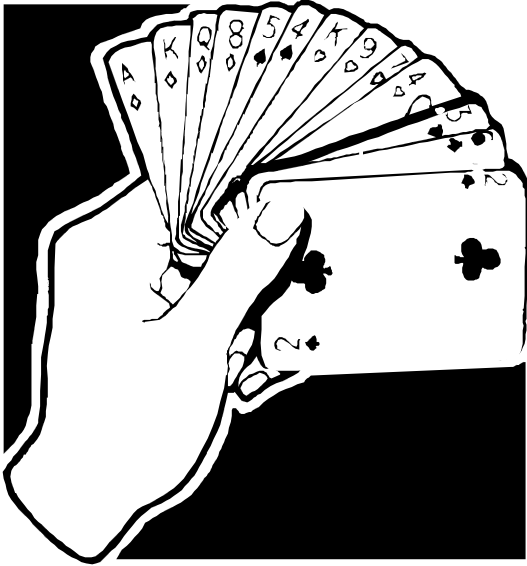
work on the actual lie of the cards, but it's not a good way to play the hand. More often than not, West will have long Hearts with the Queen (remember that East has long Clubs and is therefore likely to be short in Hearts).

Plan B is the doomed Heart finesse, but fortunately there's a Plan C which is guaranteed to succeed, regardless of who has the ♥Q! Declarer cashes the ♠A, ♠K and ♥A, and returns to hand with a Club ruff. With West showing out on the second Club, and East showing out on the second Spade, East is known to have started with 1=2=3=7 distribution.

Does that change things? Sure it does! Declarer rattles off the remaining Diamonds, keeping ♥KJ in Dummy and putting West under pressure. West must hang on to a high Spade, which will leave room in his hand for just one Heart. At Trick 12 a Heart is led and when West does not show up with the Queen, Declarer can be sure that it is dropping from the East hand. It's called a Show-Up Squeeze, and there's no guesswork required! Actually, Declarer could have flaunted his mastery by claiming after Trick 5. That would have been a Show-Off Squeeze.

P.S. After drawing trumps, Declarer did well to cash the ♠A next. That way, if East is void in Spades then the Hearts must be 3-3, and Declarer can revert to Plan A.

Upcoming tournaments:



Bloomington Winter Sectional

Jan 22-24, 2016

UAW Local 2488 Hall

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

