



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 2 – February, 2016

14 pages



February Events

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

February 1 – STaC open pairs February 8 – open pairs

February 15 – open pairs February 22 – open pairs February 29 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, February 1, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only pairs and Special STaC open pairs– First Christian

Tuesday, February 2, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs– Centennial Christian

Wednesday, February 3, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers & NLMers & Special STaC open pairs – Centennial Christian

Wednesday, February 3, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs & Special STaC 99ers pairs– First Christian

Thursday, February 4, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs & Special STaC 99ers pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, February 4, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs & 99ers pairs– Centennial Christian

Friday, February 5, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs– Centennial Christian

Saturday, February 6, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs & Special STaC 99ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Sunday, February 7, 1:15PM – Special STaC open pairs & STaC 99ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, February 8, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, February 9, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, February 10, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, February 11, 11:45AM –open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, February 13, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

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

Wednesday, February 17, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, February 18, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, February 20, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, February 22, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, February 23, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, February 24, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, February 25, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, February 27, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, February 29, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for 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!

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The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 12/7/2015 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 **3,664.09** Betty Capodice
- 2 **3,354.56** Steve Babin
- *** **2,557.18** Laura Addison
- 3 **2,475.79** Zack Freehill
- 4 **2,288.97** Eunice Patton
- 5 **2,082.43** Mike Tomlianovich
- *** **1,735.61** Steve Hawthorne
- 6 **1,618.04** Cindy Moore
- 7 **1,575.91** Dewey Gronau
- 8 **1,573.99** JoAnn Schroeder
- 9 **1,541.96** Ann Schuyler
- *** **1,398.35** Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** **1,320.43** Ed Lombard
- 10 **1,263.31** Stan Gutzman
- 11 **1,213.17** Ron Emmett
- 12 **1,201.63** Charlie Morton
- 13 **1,175.42** Lori Moore
- 14 **1,174.22** Jeanne Strand
- 15 **1,126.00** Ivey Weaver
- *** **1,091.94** Marian Edmunds
- 16 **1,034.94** Jean Barnett
- 17 **952.04** Randall Motchan
- 18 **834.59** Glen Beaman
- *** **792.95** Don Strand
- 19 **791.44** Henrietta Crain
- *** **780.34** Jack Kessler
- *** **741.06** Pearl Harris
- 20 **718.66** Dennis Moll
- 21 **695.69** Steve Wulfers
- 22 **690.43** Peg Deutsch
- 23 **669.42** Dave Freehill
- 24 **644.27** Jeff Furler
- *** **610.73** Martin Compton
- *** **570.80** Ann Farnsworth
- *** **567.22** Ruth Wettaw
- 25 **556.12** Stevie Joslin
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55** Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,876.62** Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,618.31** John Seng-Champaign
- 4,548.06** Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** **4,073.45** Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,015.74** Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,934.39** Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,715.87** Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,810.88** Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,498.57** Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,497.90** Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,496.56** Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,473.46** Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,446.86** Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,369.08** Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,330.31** Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,161.72** Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,876.24** Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,786.93** Tim Cull-Arizona
- *** **1,776.22** John Burdon
- 1,647.64** Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,590.40** John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,561.01** Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,532.31** Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,279.89** Jim Moon-Tennessee
- *** **916.41** Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 900.49** Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 874.42** Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 773.78** Doug Steele-Seymour



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#1 -

Whether declaring or defending, the auction is often your best source of information. It is particularly helpful when the opponents' bidding creates a road map for you.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-30	♣ A64	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ K1093	-	1NT	2NT	3♥
Vul N/S	♦ AQ7	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
	♣ K73	Pass			
♣ QJ72					
♥ 82	□				
♦ 10862					
♣ 1085					
	♣ 85				
	♥ J4				
	♦ KJ53				
	♣ AQ962				
	♣ K1093				
	♥ AQ765				
	♦ 94				
	♣ J4				

BIDDING: East's 2NT showed at least nine cards in the minor suits. South showed his heart suit and North raised to game.

Play: West led a low diamond and declarer stopped to reflect on the auction. It was clear the missing minor suit honors were in the East hand. Accordingly, declarer won the first trick with dummy's ace. Next, he drew trumps in two rounds followed by the king and ace of spades. Having removed East's major suit cards, declarer next led a low club from dummy. East won the queen but was end-played. If he next cashed the ace of clubs, declarer's diamond loser could be discarded on the king of clubs. He finally cashed the ace of clubs and the king of diamonds. This allowed declarer to discard his two spade losers on the queen of diamonds and the king of clubs.

Most N/S pairs failed in a four spade contract when East did not enter the auction. Too often players bid because they can rather than because they should.

#2 -

In a team game it is very dangerous to double your opponents into game. Such a score is a very unwelcome result to show your teammates when you compare. However, when playing in a pairs event, you often must double a partscore to receive a good result on the board.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-31	♣ 52		West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ K762		1♦	Pass	1♥	1♣
Vul both	♦ 74		2♣	Pass	2♦	2♠
	♣ KQ984		3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
♣ AK4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♣ 93	DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass
♥ 8		♥ QJ543				
♦ AK1052		♦ QJ96				
♣ J765		♣ 103				
	♣ QJ10876					
	♥ A109					
	♦ 83					
	♣ A2					

BIDDING: South chose to rebid his six-card spade suit and after West competed in diamonds, North entered the auction. West felt he could make his three diamond contract and beating three spades one trick for +100 would not be good result. Accordingly, he doubled to protect his +110 or +130.

Play: West's plan was to lead his singleton heart and then put his partner in to give him a ruff. He led his heart and it was clear to everyone that the eight was a singleton. Declarer he had to lose two spades and two diamonds so he had to avoid the heart ruff. Declarer won in his hand with the ace as East contributed the nine suggesting a possible entry in the higher ranking side suit. Next, declarer tried the three top clubs but East ruffed the third round. Declarer discarded a diamond but East gave his partner a heart ruff and the contract was soon down one.

The score of +200 was an excellent result as most E/W pairs made +130 in diamonds. A score of +100 would have been below average so the double was necessary.

#3 -

It's not always easy to place missing honor cards. Sometimes you just make the play that has the best chance of succeeding.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-32	♣ AK952		West	North	East	South
Dir E	♥ A653		-	-	2♠	3♥
Vul both	♦ A		Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
	♣ Q98		Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
♠ 84	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♠ QJ10874	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
♥ 84		♥ 72	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ 9876532		♦ KJ104	Pass			
♣ KJ65		♣ 3	Pass			
	♠ 63					
	♥ KQJ109					
	♦ Q					
	♣ A10742					

BIDDING: After South overcalled East's weak-2 bid, North cue bid spades to show a strong heart raise. South showed a club control and North used Roman Keycard Blackwood (4 aces + trump king) to discover South held two keycards plus the queen of hearts. 5NT asked if South held any more kings and six hearts showed none.

Play: West led the nine of diamonds and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. It was clear the club suit must be played for one loser. He could play East for one of the two missing honors by first leading the queen and then later finessing him for the jack. Or, he could simply play West for the king of clubs. The opening lead suggested the nine was the top of nothing which placed the KJ of diamonds with East. Those cards along with the QJ of spades would constitute a good weak-2 bid. But, it wasn't clear who held the king of clubs.

Finally, after winning the opening lead and drawing trumps, declarer led a low club toward dummy's queen. West won the king but it would not have mattered if he had ducked. Making the slam resulted in a good score. Two N/S pairs feel victim to greed; one failing in 6NT and the other down in a heart grand slam.

#4 -

Playing too quickly to trick one is a common and often costly mistake. As declarer or defender, this is the time to examine dummy, reflect on the auction, and study the opening lead.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

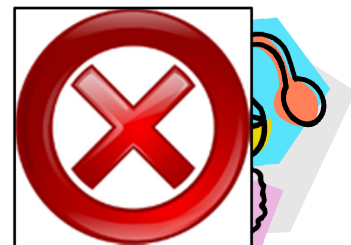
#15-33	♠ KJ106				
Dlr E	♥ AQ	West	North	East	South
Vul both	♦ J108	-	-	1♦	Pass
	♣ AKQ4	Pass	DBL	Pass	1♥
♠ 97532	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
♥ 96		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ A64					
♣ 875					
	♠ AQ				
	♥ KJ2				
	♦ K952				
	♣ J962				
	♠ 84				
	♥ 1087543				
	♦ Q73				
	♣ 103				

BIDDING: East's opening bid was passed around to North who made a takeout double. With a weak hand South responded one heart to show fewer than eight points. North next showed a very big hand by cue bidding the opponents' suit. Again South made a weak rebid in hearts and North reluctantly passed.

Play: West led the ace of diamonds and without much thought, East encouraged with the nine. East won the diamond continuation with the king and declarer's queen captured the third round. Declarer led a heart to the ace, played the top three clubs pitching a spade, and then led the queen of hearts. East won, cashed the jack of hearts and the ace of spades and declarer claimed the rest.

At trick one East should have seen the need for a spade shift from her partner. The discouraging deuce of diamonds would let West know another diamond was not wanted. Looking at those strong clubs in dummy, West would surely find the spade shift and defeat the contract.

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 8 of a 16-part series

This month: The section titled “notrump overcall”.

The first agreement to make is what your point range is for when the opponents open 1 of a suit and your partnership overcalls 1NT in the direct position (i.e. your RHO opens 1 of a suit and you overcall 1NT OR your LHO opens 1 of a suit and your partner overcalls 1NT). Some players use the same point range as an opening bid of 1NT. Other players agree that if their 1NT opening bid shows a 15-17 point balanced hand, then the 1NT overcall shows a 15-18 point balanced hand. It is recommended that if your 1NT agreement is 15-17, then your 1NT overcall should be 15-18. If your 1NT opening bid shows 16-18, then your 1NT overcall should be 16-18.

Next, show if your 1NT opening bid systems for responding (i.e. Stayman, Transfer, stolen bids, etc.) are all on for responding to the 1NT overcall. Many players say their 1NT opening bid systems are all on for the 1NT overcall. Some players want all of their systems off. Other players have only some of their systems on. You need to agree with your partner what to do.

Some players use the 1NT overcall as a special, alertable bid. Should you adopt a special bid for a 1NT overcall, mark the ‘conv’ box for conventional and describe the agreement.

Next, decide your agreement for when the opponents open 1 of a suit and there are 2 passes. This is called balancing 1NT. Some players use the same agreement as a 1NT direct seat overcall. Other players will use a range of 11-14 points, consistent with balancing. Remember, if partner balances, lower your hand value by a king (3 points) before responding. It is recommended to make 1NT in the balancing seat for 11-14 point hands.

Next, decide what a jump overcall to 2NT means. If your agreement shows this jump as a real 2NT opening bid, then do not mark anything. However, many players use this bid for showing shapely hand of at least 5-5 in 2 suits. It is recommended that this bid show 5-5 in the 2 lowest unbid suits. Some players show this as minor suits only for the situations where the opponents open with a short minor suit.

If your jump bid to 2NT is something other than these agreements, then make the box ‘conv’ and describe your conventional agreement.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “defensive bidding to the opponent’s opening notrump bids”.



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Years 2015 & 2016
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2016/1/12	70.14%	Marilyn & Darryl Bremner(Clinton invitational)
2015/12/14	70.83%	Mike Gross & Carroll Kinnaman(99ers)
2015/12/5	70.31%	Christine Carroll & Wes Seitz
2015/11/30	71.11%	Phil Kenney & Zach Freehill
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



#89 – CONJURING TRICK

	♠ Q2 ♥ QJT6 ♦ A432 ♣ A62	
♠ J98 ♥ A ♦ T987 ♣ KQT87	North West East Declarer	♠ K76543 ♥ 852 ♦ J6 ♣ J9
	♠ AT ♥ K9743 ♦ KQ5 ♣ 543	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ Pass 4♥? All Pass

North took the direct route to game, but there are better ways to bid that hand. Most tournament players use 1♥-4♥ as a preempt (5+ Hearts and a weak hand) and use a conventional 2NT bid for the actual North hand, thereby giving N-S the opportunity to investigate slam if appropriate (which in this case it is not!)

Against 4♥ West led the ♠K, won by Dummy's Ace. A trump was lost to West's Ace, then West cashed two Clubs and exited safely with a Diamond. At this point Declarer could

count nine top tricks. Do you see how she might conjure up a tenth?

Before Declarer commences any conjuring it will occur to her that West has shown up with ♥A and the ♣KQ, and that if he also held the ♠K he would no doubt have been heard from in the bidding. So, East has the ♠K.

At first glance it might appear that the only chance is for the Diamonds to break 3-3. What if one defender has four (or more) Diamonds *and* the ♠K? In that case could Declarer rattle off all her trumps and save the day with a squeeze? Not if it is East who holds the vital cards, because he will be discarding last and will pitch whatever suit Dummy pitches. So that squeeze won't work. And we know that West cannot hold the ♠K so clearly the squeeze won't work against him.

Does that mean that we are back to relying on 3-3 Diamonds? Actually, no! Declarer has a clever resource available. She leads the ♠Q from Dummy, East must cover, and Declarer's Ace wins the trick. Now the all-important Spade card is the Jack and there *is* room in West's hand for that. So, Declarer now runs the Hearts, hoping that Diamonds are 3-3 or that West is squeezed in Spades and Diamonds. 10 tricks in exotic fashion (that play is known as a Transfer Squeeze, so named because it transfers the Spade guard from one defender to the other).

#90 – RISK AND REWARD

	♠ A ♥ Q63 ♦ AQJ96 ♣ K863	
♠ JT982 ♥ K98 ♦ 54 ♣ QT4	North West East Declarer	♠ Q73 ♥ JT7 ♦ KT7 ♣ J972
	♠ K654 ♥ A542 ♦ 832 ♣ A5	

Both Vulnerable

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

In a team game or a money game, making the contract is all-important, and overtricks are merely a secondary consideration. But, in duplicate bridge, the method of scoring rewards overtricks and, as we'll see, that can influence the play of the hand.

First, try this 3NT in a team game, and focus entirely on making the contract. West leads ♠J, won in Dummy.

Declarer sees that four Diamond tricks will suffice to make the contract and, as a safety play against East having the singleton King, he might cash the ♦A first. That doesn't produce the King so Declarer next leads the ♦Q from Dummy, and when the dust clears, Declarer has 9 tricks. Routine stuff.

However, playing the same contract in a duplicate game, Declarer is more likely to try for an overtrick or two and, under the right circumstances, might even risk his contract in the process. As before, West leads the ♠J, won in Dummy. This time, Declarer says "Phooey!" to that safety play, and will try for five Diamond tricks. So, he crosses to the ♣A and finesses the ♦Q. But East is a devious fellow and fiendishly drops his Ten under Dummy's Queen. Now, Declarer can see 10 easy tricks in his future. He crosses to the ♥A, cashes the ♠K (otherwise it will be stranded), and runs the ♦8. But this loses to East's King, the defense runs the Spades, and it's down one in a cold contract!

Declarer's play was disastrous but, at duplicate scoring, not unreasonable. If he'd have made his overtrick he would have been rewarded with a good score. Too bad for him that the ♦K was offside, and East was tricky enough to duck the first Diamond, and Spades broke 5-3. It took three pieces of bad luck to bring about Declarer's downfall.

#91 – A HAND WITH EXTRAS

	♠ KQJ4 ♥ K632 ♦ 73 ♣ Q64	
♠ A5 ♥ QJ95 ♦ KJ84 ♣ 975	North West East South	♠ 7 ♥ AT84 ♦ 9652 ♣ K832
	♠ T98632 ♥ 7 ♦ AQT ♣ AJT	

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
??			

Usually this column deals with play and defensive problems, but this week it's all about the bidding. Take a look at the South hand. What do you see? A hand that would open a Weak Two in Spades? A hand that would pass in first seat? Or a minimum 1♠ opening bid? Actually, it's none of the above!

Back in the day, we needed 13 HCP to open the bidding (or 12 if we were feeling frisky), but experienced players don't just count their points, they also consider their distribution. One

tool for doing that is the Rule of 20 ... we add HCP to the length of our two longest suits ... if the total is 20 or more we have an opening bid. By this measure, South scores 11+6+3, and just manages to scrape up the magic number. So, let us agree that the South hand is worth a 1♠ opening bid.

North's 3♠ showed game-invitational values, saying "Bid game if you have something extra". Does South have said extras? Some might say "No!", on the grounds that the hand has only 11 HCP, and that it barely squeaked into opening territory on the Rule of 20 basis. Maybe so, but nonetheless the South hand *does* have extras. There is that singleton Heart ... the 6th trump ... and those lovely minor-suit Tens! Extras, indeed!

So, South cheerfully accepts the game invitation, West makes his opening lead (probably the ♥Q) and Dummy is revealed. It's a pretty poor specimen, what with the useless ♥K and not much cover in the minor suits. But, even so, it is good enough. The Diamond finesse loses, but the Club finesse wins and (thanks to the all-important ♣T) there are 10 tricks!

#92 – A TRAIN TO CATCH

	♠ T8 ♥ AK ♦ T65 ♣ KQ5432	
♠ 9765 ♥ QJT6 ♦ -- ♣ JT976	North West East Declarer	♠ 432 ♥ 732 ♦ AQ87432 ♣ --
	♠ AKQJ ♥ 9854 ♦ KJ9 ♣ A8	

N-S Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
			3♦
3NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

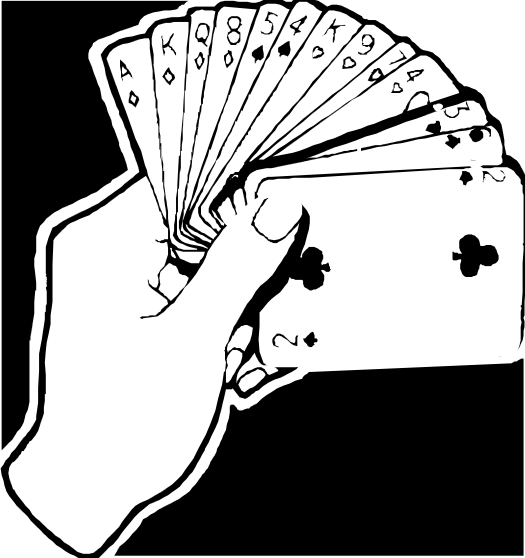
When he bid 6NT, could North be sure that E-W wouldn't cash two Diamonds on the go? Almost. East supposedly had seven Diamonds ... if South's stopper was the Ace or King then no problem ... and if South held Qxx then West probably couldn't lead the suit!

Against 6NT West led the ♥Q. Judging from what followed, one can only assume that this was the last board of the evening and that Declarer had a train to catch. He counted nine top tricks, realized that a couple of Diamond tricks would not get him up to 12, concluded that the Clubs had better be 3-2, and announced to the assembled throng: "Making slam if the Clubs are 3-2, down one if they are 4-1". When it turned out that Clubs were actually 5-0 the protagonists negotiated a settlement of down two.

If Declarer had not been reliant on public transport and had given more thought at Trick 1 then he might have seen that the contract had chances even if Clubs misbehaved. Our question is: At Trick 2, what is the only card from Dummy which enables Declarer to make his contract? That's right, Dummy must lead the Diamond Ten, being prepared to let it ride if East plays low. But say that East hops up with the Ace and fires back another Heart. Now, Declarer is up to 11 tricks. He takes his two Diamond tricks, then his Spades, and poor West is done for. He cannot retain control of Hearts and Clubs, something has to give, and a squeeze produces the 12th trick!

That Diamond play at Trick 2 gave Declarer an extra chance and could hardly cost. Even if the finesse improbably lost to West's singleton Queen, Declarer would still make his contract if the Clubs were 3-2.

Upcoming tournaments:



Peoria Spring Sectional

Apr 22-24, 2016

Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center
201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

