



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 3 – March, 2016

14 pages



## March Events

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

March 7 – ACBL-wide seniors only open pairs      March 14 – open pairs

March 21 – open pairs      March 28 – open pairs

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

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule:**

Wednesday, March 2, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers pairs – Centennial Christian

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, March 10, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, March 12, 1:15PM – open pairs – Centennial Christian – SPECIAL TIME – Glen Beaman's funeral

Monday, March 14, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

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

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

Saturday, March 19, 12:30PM – open pairs – Centennial Christian – SPECIAL TIME – morning church event

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

Tuesday, March 22, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

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

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

Saturday, March 26, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, March 28, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, March 30, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, March 31, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for partner. All game results are posted online: [clubresults.acbl.org](http://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 2/6/2016 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1    3,668.28 Betty Capodice
- 2    3,364.08 Steve Babin
- \*\*\* 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 3    2,498.55 Zack Freehill
- 4    2,315.58 Eunice Patton
- 5    2,084.84 Mike Tomlianovich
- \*\*\* 1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 6    1,655.03 Cindy Moore
- 7    1,602.37 JoAnn Schroeder
- 8    1,579.58 Dewey Gronau
- 9    1,567.98 Ann Schuyler
- \*\*\* 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- \*\*\* 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 10   1,263.31 Stan Gutzman
- 11   1,216.11 Ron Emmett
- 12   1,210.02 Charlie Morton
- 13   1,205.59 Lori Moore
- 14   1,182.58 Jeanne Strand
- 15   1,129.18 Ivey Weaver
- \*\*\* 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 16   1,038.19 Jean Barnett
- 17   954.98 Randall Motchan
- 18   835.37 Glen Beaman
- \*\*\* 792.95 Don Strand
- 19   791.44 Henrietta Crain
- \*\*\* 780.34 Jack Kessler
- \*\*\* 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 20   721.00 Dennis Moll
- 21   709.59 Steve Wulfers
- 22   693.22 Jeff Furler
- 23   692.05 Peg Deutsch
- 24   679.34 Dave Freehill
- \*\*\* 610.73 Martin Compton
- \*\*\* 570.80 Ann Farnsworth
- \*\*\* 567.22 Ruth Wettaw
- 25   562.49 Stevie Joslin
- \*\*\* deceased

### Other players:

- \*\*\*12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,884.81 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,633.49 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,574.57 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- \*\*\* 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,020.97 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,949.20 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,715.87 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,822.47 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,512.53 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,506.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,503.76 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,486.38 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,446.86 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,393.58 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,335.09 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,185.34 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,883.08 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,790.55 Tim Cull-Arizona
- \*\*\* 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,657.30 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,613.70 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,561.85 Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,532.31 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,279.89 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- \*\*\* 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 900.71 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 880.37 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 782.13 Doug Steele-Seymour



# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

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#1 -

It is rare when the value of a hand does not change during the auction. This North hand had only nine high card points but became worth much more as the auction developed.

## Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-34	♠ J985	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ J105	-	Pass	1♦	DBL
Vul both	♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
	♣ AQJ964	Pass	4♦	Pass	6♠
♠ 73	□	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 9742					
♦ 9762					
♣ 1087					
	♠ K2				
	♥ K8				
	♦ AJ10853				
	♣ 532				
	♠ AQ1064				
	♥ AQ63				
	♦ KQ4				
	♣ K				

**BIDDING:** In response to his partner's takeout double, North jumped in clubs to show 9-11 points. After South rebid spades, North cue bid diamonds to show a great fit for spades convincing South to bid the slam.


**Play:** West led a low diamond and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. The auction placed all the missing high cards in the East hand. So, declarer ruffed the diamond lead and followed with the jack of spades. East covered with the king and declarer won and pulled the last trumps. Next, declarer unblocked the king of clubs and then trumped a diamond in dummy. The club suit behaved so declarer had all 13 tricks without resorting to the heart finesse.

The play was easy but not many N/S pairs reached this slam. The key to the auction was North's diamond cue bid. With first round control in two suits and four-card spade support, the North hand was just too good for a mere raise to game. Since North had originally passed it was important to persuade his partner that the North hand was a strong dummy for a spade contract.

#2 -

Too often players bid because they can and not because they should. Strong opponents will take advantage of the information these bids reveal.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-35	♣ AQ1032	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ Q64	Pass	1NT	2♦	6♣
Vul N/S	♦ A43	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ K10				
♣ J9764					
♥ 87					
♦ 108					
♣ J754					
	♣ K85				
	♥ A10952				
	♦ Q975				
	♣ 6				
	♣				
	♥ KJ3				
	♦ KJ62				
	♣ AQ9832				

**BIDDING:** East was convinced it was good bridge to interfere with the opponents' auction whenever possible. His two diamond bid showed diamonds and a higher suit. South wasn't sure how to continue but finally decided to bid what he thought he could make.


**Play:** West led the ten of diamonds that rode around to declarer's jack. Declarer saw he had a heart trick to lose and turned his attention to the trump suit. The auction indicated East held nine+ cards in two higher suits and that suggested shortness in clubs. Since the odds favored club length with West, at trick two he led a low club to dummy's ten. He continued with the king of clubs and was pleased to see the decision to finesse was necessary. He ruffed a spade to his hand, drew the remaining trumps, and conceded a trick to the ace of hearts. The other low diamond was discarded on the ace of spades.

There is no way of knowing if N/S would have reached slam without the interference. But, there's a good chance the club mystery might not have been solved.

#3 -

New players will often pull trumps and then look around at what to do next. This declarer's play was dictated by the limited number of entries to his hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-36	♠ AKJ87	West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ AQ1076	-	-	3♣	Pass
Vul N/S	♦ A4	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
	♣ 9	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ Q1032					
♥ 432					
♦ KQ1098					
♣ Q					
	♠ 964				
	♥ J9				
	♦ 7652				
	♣ A962				

**BIDDING:** North's cue bid of East's club suit asked his partner to bid a major. South nervously took a preference to spades.


**Play:** West led the queen of clubs and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. After winning the ace of clubs if he took the spade finesse, he would have no entry back to his hand. However, the heart finesse was different; if the jack lost to the king or was covered by the king, the nine of hearts was a re-entry. If the jack of hearts won, he would still be in his hand and could take the spade finesse.

The jack of hearts lost and East returned a club forcing declarer to trump in dummy. Declarer was able to return to his hand via the nine of hearts to take the winning spade finesse. He followed with the ace-king of spades and then ran his hearts allowing West to win his queen of spades. Declarer lost only one spade, one heart, and one diamond.

#4 –

The opening lead can be very important. On this hand it was the difference between success and failure.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-37	♠ A94		West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ KQJ93		-	-	-	1 ♠
Vul E/W	♦ AQ83		Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
	♣ K		Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
♠ 106542		♠ 8532	Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣
♥ 765		♥ 8	Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
♦ J9862		♦ K4	Pass			
		♣ AQ10753	Pass			
	♠ KQJ1076		Pass			
	♥ A7					
	♦ J1092					
	♣ 4					

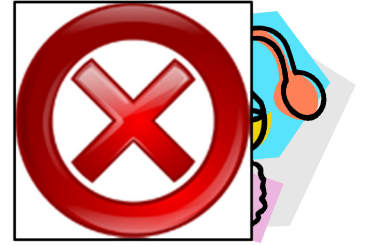
**BIDDING:** North's two heart response was game forcing. After agreeing spades, South cue bid clubs to show a first or second round control. North used Roman Keycard Blackwood to find his partner with two keycards and the queen of spades. Knowing a keycard was missing, North settled for the small slam.

**Play:** At one table West led a diamond and declarer stopped to consider the hand. He won the ace of diamonds, drew trumps, and then played ace and another heart to the king. He was disappointed when East discarded a club but still had no problem. He discarded his club and a diamond on the QJ of hearts and then conceded a trick to the king of diamonds.

At another table West led a club to his partner's ace. East made the only safe exit of a trump. Declarer won and drew the rest of the trumps before tackling the heart suit. When East showed out on the second round, declarer had to lose a diamond trick for down one. He could have made the slam after the club lead by finessing in hearts but that was never going to happen.

There was very little to guide the West players when considering the opening lead. Diamonds was the unbid suit yet the club lead was the winner. It's hard to be critical of either choice.

**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 9 of a 16-part series**

**This month: “defensive bidding to the opponent’s opening notrump bids”.**

**It would be best if you have a copy of the convention agreement sheet as you read this description.**

**Take a look at the section titled “defense vs notrump”. This section is for you to describe what agreements you and your partner have for when the opponents open the bidding with 1 notrump.**

**Note there are 2 columns. One is meant for when opponents use a strong 1 notrump opening bid and the other is for other types of 1 notrump opening bids. Or, you could use 1 column for non-vulnerable and the other for when you are vulnerable.**

**Most players use the same agreement for either weak / strong 1 no trump opening bids or for when you are nonvulnerable / vulnerable.**

**Note down the left-hand side of this section. There is a line for each of the 4 suits bid at the 2-level plus a line for double and then “other”. Describe on each line what each bid of 2 clubs, 2 diamonds, 2 hearts, or 2 spades means. Also include a description of what your agreement is for when you or your partner doubles the opponent’s 1 no trump opening bid.**

**If a bid at the 2-level is natural for the respective suit, you can merely write the word “natural” to cover this entire section. If the bid agreements are all natural, no alerting is needed. But, if you use agreement systems such as DON’T (disturb opponents no trump – popularized by Marty Bergen), or Brozell, or Cappeletti, or any others, just mark the name of the system in large lettering to cover the entire section. All bids from any of these systems (or any other systems) must be alerted.**

**Next month’s tip: The section titled “simple overcall”.**







**Bloomington-Normal 70% club  
Years 2015 & 2016  
Sponsored by: TBA**

<b>2016/2/3</b>	<b>71.67%</b>	<b>Lynn Steffen &amp; Mary Houska(NLMers)</b>
<b>2016/1/12</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Marilyn &amp; Darryl Bremner(Clinton invitational)</b>
<b>2015/12/14</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>Mike Gross &amp; Carroll Kinnaman(99ers)</b>
<b>2015/12/5</b>	<b>70.31%</b>	<b>Christine Carroll &amp; Wes Seitz</b>
<b>2015/11/30</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Phil Kenney &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2015/11/28</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Ann Schuyler &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2015/11/2</b>	<b>71.35%</b>	<b>Ann Schuyler &amp; Dennis Moll</b>
<b>2015/10/28</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Gary Kemp &amp; John Ford(NLMers)</b>
<b>2015/10/10</b>	<b>73.66%</b>	<b>Lane O'Connor &amp; Steve Wulfers</b>
<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>

## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #93 - A SURE THING

	♠ 4 ♥ K32 ♦ T743 ♣ KQ752	
♠ KQ3 ♥ AQJT ♦ Q5 ♣ T986	North  West East  Declarer	♠ JT976 ♥ 8 ♦ KJ82 ♣ J43
	♠ A852 ♥ 97654 ♦ A96 ♣ A	

*E-W Vulnerable*

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

We don't condone the N-S bidding, we just report the facts. Back in the good old days West's Double might have been thunderous, but now we have bidding boxes, keeping down the decibels on those occasions when West thinks he is on to a sure thing.

After leading the ♠K, West got the first bit of bad news when he saw the ♥K in Dummy, and realized that he did not have four certain trump tricks. "No matter", thought West, "surely we can scrounge up a trick or two in the side-suits". Not so! Declarer was able to abscond with 10 tricks thanks to this well-timed line of play:

- At Trick 1 he won the ♠A
- Then he cashed the ♣A and ♦A
- Over to Dummy with a Spade ruff
- Cash ♣K and ♣Q (pitching Diamonds)
- Diamond ruff
- Spade ruff

By now Declarer had 8 tricks. Next came another Club winner, and luck was on Declarer's side when it turned out that West was the defender with four Clubs. East gamely ruffed the Club with the Eight, but was overruffed by Declarer's Nine.

Now for the *coup de grace* or, more specifically, a *coup en passant*. West's last four cards were the AQJT of trumps, and Dummy was down to the singleton King. But, when Declarer led her last Spade, that singleton King would score a trick one way or the other ... if West ruffed high then the King would be good ... if West ruffed low then Dummy would overruff.

#94 – DODGING AN UPPERCUT

	♠ 95 ♥ A63 ♦ K8 ♣ 876432	
♠ KT ♥ JT72 ♦ 642 ♣ AKQT	North  West East  Declarer	♠ Q432 ♥ Q5 ♦ QJT53 ♣ J9
	♠ AJ876 ♥ K984 ♦ A97 ♣ 5	

*Both Vulnerable*

South	West	North	East
1♠	Dbl	2♣	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

After a particularly virulent outbreak of overbidding, one which afflicted all the combatants other than West, South found herself in the sickly contract of 3♠. The defense started with high Clubs, and Declarer ruffed the second round. How should she proceed?

With only four side-suit tricks, Declarer would need no fewer than five from the trump suit ... a Diamond ruff in Dummy

would be one of them ... and hopefully three Club ruffs and the ♠A would make up the rest. Declarer made the key play of cashing the high Hearts next, a necessary step as otherwise, on the second Club ruff, East would be able to dump a Heart. With the Hearts safely cashed, Declarer crossed to the ♦K, ruffed another Club, cashed ♦A, ruffed a Diamond, ruffed a third Club, and had her 9 tricks.

That was good timing by Declarer, but East could have offered sterner resistance. Look what happens if East ruffs the fourth round of Clubs with his *Queen* (a so-called “uppercut”). Now, if Declarer overruffs with the Ace, that will be her eighth and final trick. Her last four cards will be ♠J8 and two Heart losers. She’ll exit with a Heart but East will alertly ruff his partner’s winner, and fire a trump through. Down one.

However, Declarer can dodge that uppercut by declining to over-ruff with the Ace. Instead, she pitches a Heart loser, and will come to nine tricks one way or another. If South is going to overbid like that then she needs to play them well.

## #95 – ROLE REVERSAL

	♠ AK4 ♥ T94 ♦ T5432 ♣ AK	
♠ Q72 ♥ J852 ♦ KQ6 ♣ 843	North  West East  Declarer	♠ J6 ♥ 763 ♦ J987 ♣ QT62
	♠ T9853 ♥ AKQ ♦ A ♣ J975	

*Both Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass

2NT Pass 4♣ All Pass

At rubber bridge, you win the Club lead, cash a second Club, then the top two trumps, and later take a Club ruff. The dust clears and it's 11 easy tricks. Now let's replay this at duplicate scoring, where a second overtrick would be the difference between a great board and a merely average one.

If Declarer is looking for 12 tricks, it won't do to take a second Club ruff on the board, that would promote a second trump trick for the defense. No, instead of taking two ruffs in

the short hand, Declarer does better to take *three* Diamond ruffs in her own (the long) hand. Here is the sequence of plays:

- ♣A wins opening lead
- Cash ♦A
- Cash the Hearts
- Cross to the ♠A
- Ruff a Diamond
- Cross to the ♠K
- Ruff a Diamond
- Cross to the ♣K

That's 10 tricks in, and here's the end-position:

*Dummy:* ♠4 ♦T5

*West:* ♠Q ♥J ♣8                      *East:* ♦J ♣QT

*Declarer:* ♠T ♣J9

Another Diamond is ruffed by Declarer and West has two choices:

- If he overruffs then Dummy is good
- If he pitches a Club, then Declarer leads a Club and scores Dummy's low trump *en passant*

Usually, we seek extra tricks by taking a ruff or two in the hand with the short trumps (which is usually Dummy). But occasionally, as here, there is a reversal of roles, and we go for multiple ruffs in the long hand, the so-called "dummy reversal".

#96 – A HOPELESS CONTRACT

	♠ AQ8 ♥ JT873 ♦ 65 ♣ 764	
♠ 9 ♥ 92 ♦ KQT98432 ♣ AQ	North  West East  Declarer	♠ KT76532 ♥ 6 ♦ J7 ♣ K83
	♠ J4 ♥ AKQ54 ♦ A ♣ JT952	

*E-W Vulnerable*

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

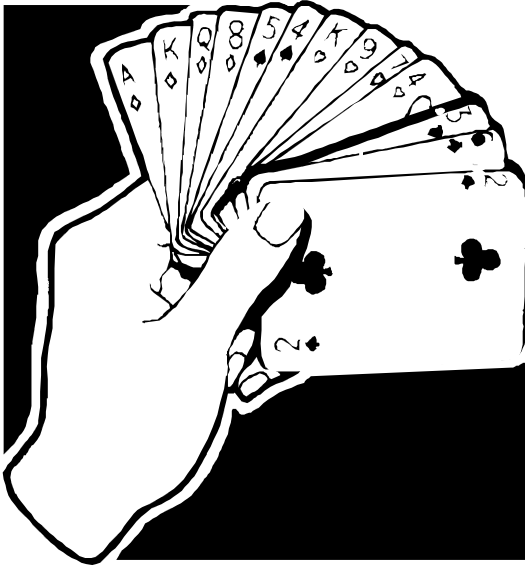
North's jump to 4♥ was supposedly preemptive and hardly ideal given those defensive Spade tricks. The consequence was that South pushed on to 5♥, expecting that 4♠ would make and that 5♥ doubled would be a profitable sacrifice. As it happened she was wrong on both counts.

4♠ would have been down, and 5♥ also looked pretty hopeless. West led the Spade Nine, won by Dummy's Ace, Declarer dropping the devious Jack. It might seem obvious

to draw trumps next, but instead Declarer did something rather clever. At Trick 2, she led a Club to her Jack, won by West's Queen. The Diamond shift was won by Declarer who crossed to the ♥J, ruffed a Diamond (high), crossed back to the ♥T, and led a Club, won by West's Ace. "Rats!" muttered West, who should have smelled one earlier. Left with nothing but Diamonds, West had to concede a ruff and sluff, a Club being pitched from Dummy and the Diamond ruffed in hand. Now a Club ruff set up the suit and Declarer had 11 astonishing tricks. Some sacrifice!

Either of the defenders could have saved the day. East could have hopped up with his ♣K at Trick 2 and cashed a Spade, though that was far from obvious. But West was the real culprit for walking straight into the end-play. In the post mortem West claimed that his defense was correct if Declarer held ♠J, ♥AKQxx, ♦Ax, ♣KJTxx, but in that case West should have wondered why Declarer was risking a defensive Club ruff before drawing trumps. Even though West erred, let's give credit to Declarer for playing Clubs early. If, after winning the ♠A, she had cashed the ♦A, crossed to the ♥J, ruffed a Diamond (high), crossed to the ♥T and *then* led a Club, West would have a road map to the right defense ... he'd squander the ♣A, lead his ♠Q to East's ♣K, and the ♠K would be the setting trick.

# Upcoming tournaments:



## Peoria Spring Sectional

Apr 22-24, 2016

Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center

201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

