



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 5 – May, 2016

14 pages



May Events

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

May 2 – open pairs May 9 – open pairs
May 16 – open pairs May 23 – open pairs May 30 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, May 2, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian
Wednesday, May 4, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian
Thursday, May 5, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Saturday, May 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Monday, May 9, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian
Tuesday, May 10, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club
Wednesday, May 11, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian
Thursday, May 12, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Saturday, May 14, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Monday, May 16, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian
Wednesday, May 18, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian
Thursday, May 19, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Saturday, May 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Monday, May 23, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian
Tuesday, May 24, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club
Wednesday, May 25, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian
Thursday, May 26, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Saturday, May 28, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian
Monday, May 30, 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 4/6/2016 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 **3,682.65** Betty Capodice
- 2 **3,388.67** Steve Babin
- *** **2,557.18** Laura Addison
- 3 **2,521.50** Zack Freehill
- 4 **2,362.41** Eunice Patton
- 5 **2,087.05** Mike Tomlianovich
- *** **1,735.61** Steve Hawthorne
- 6 **1,682.63** Cindy Moore
- 7 **1,657.36** JoAnn Schroeder
- 8 **1,600.41** Ann Schuyler
- 9 **1,585.17** Dewey Gronau
- *** **1,398.35** Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** **1,320.43** Ed Lombard
- 10 **1,263.31** Stan Gutzman
- 11 **1,230.34** Lori Moore
- 12 **1,230.01** Ron Emmett
- 13 **1,220.53** Charlie Morton
- 14 **1,186.09** Jeanne Strand
- 15 **1,132.98** Ivey Weaver
- *** **1,091.94** Marian Edmunds
- 16 **1,041.61** Jean Barnett
- 17 **959.56** Randall Motchan
- *** **835.37** Glen Beaman
- *** **792.95** Don Strand
- 18 **794.41** Henrietta Crain
- *** **780.34** Jack Kessler
- *** **741.06** Pearl Harris
- 19 **740.11** Jeff Furler
- 20 **730.04** Dennis Moll
- 21 **718.97** Steve Wulfers
- 22 **695.50** Peg Deutsch
- 23 **680.83** Dave Freehill
- *** **610.73** Martin Compton
- *** **570.80** Ann Farnsworth
- *** **567.22** Ruth Wettaw
- 24 **570.37** Stevie Joslin
- 25 **561.81** Joyce Clay
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55** Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,957.36** Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,686.07** John Seng-Champaign
- 4,584.26** Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** **4,073.45** Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,022.49** Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,973.39** Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,875.55** Christine Carroll-Champaign
- 3,722.71** Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,944.34** Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,533.38** Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,510.92** Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,508.99** Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,492.11** Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,446.86** Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,436.01** Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,360.17** Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,229.06** Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,893.00** Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,796.58** Tim Cull-Arizona
- *** **1,776.22** John Burdon
- 1,683.66** Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,662.14** John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,561.85** Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,532.31** Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,279.89** Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 963.31** Chuck Langley-Mechanicsburg
- *** **916.41** Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 912.54** Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 898.71** Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 793.61** Doug Steele-Seymour
- 514.32** Wes Seitz-Champaign



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#1 -

It is not uncommon for players to begin using a convention before examining the fine print. There are often some very important Do's and Don'ts in addition to the basic rules.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-42	♠ KJ	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ AJ9	-	-	-	1♥
Vul E/W	♦ Q64	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
	♣ AKQ42	Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
♠ 852	□	Pass			
♥ 105					
♦ A532					
♣ 9875					
	♠ 109764				
	♥ 832				
	♦ K1097				
	♣ 3				
	♠ AQ3				
	♥ KQ764				
	♦ J8				
	♣ J106				

BIDDING: Holding a very strong hand, North became very excited when his partner opened the bidding. He rushed into Blackwood and after finding that only one ace was missing, he bid the slam.


Play: West led the ace of diamonds and continued the suit after receiving encouragement from his partner. Down one was below average but there were other N/S pairs who joined them in defeat. Some were successful when West did not lead a diamond.

As this hand demonstrates, it is important to have either first or second round control of every suit before using Blackwood. A simple cue bidding sequence would have discovered that neither partner held a diamond control.

#2 -

The auction is frequently your best guide when choosing your opening lead. In this hand the auction along with some very simple math helped to defeat the contract.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-44	♠ AKJ10		West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ Q43		-	-	-	Pass
Vul N/S	♦ 10975		Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
	♣ J3		Pass	Pass	2♣	2♦
♠ 32		♠ 754	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
♥ J876		♥ K92	Pass			
♦ A632		♦ Q	Pass			
♣ A108		♣ KQ9765	Pass			
	♠ Q986					
	♥ A105					
	♦ KJ84					
	♣ 42					

BIDDING: North opened light in third chair and then passed her partner's response. East balanced and N/S stopped in two spades.

PLAY: Although silent in the auction, West was listening. It seemed very likely that North and South each held four diamonds which left his partner with only one. He led the ace of diamonds followed by the deuce as a suit preference card for a club return. East trumped the second diamond and trusting his partner, led a low club back to his partner's ace. West led a third diamond and East ruffed again. Next, East cashed the king of clubs and then exited with a trump. Declarer still had two hearts to lose and ended with only six tricks.


Down two for +200 was a very good score for E/W. Those declarers in two spades who received a trump lead were successful losing only 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. Those N/S pairs who received a heart lead were able to make an overtrick. Those E/W pairs who led the ace of clubs were able to beat the contract one trick.

This hand demonstrates how important the opening lead can be.

#3 –

Much of our bidding is based on the 4-3-2-1 point count system devised many decades ago. However, since the auction can cause you to upgrade or downgrade the cards you hold, it's important to be flexible.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-45	♠ J63	West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ J1052	-	-	-	1NT
Vul N/S	♦ KQ7	Pass	2♣	DBL	2♥
	♣ Q106	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 9842					
♥ 964					
♦ 10542					
♣ 95					
	♠ Q107				
	♥ AK				
	♦ J83				
	♣ KJ873				
	♠ AK5				
	♥ Q873				
	♦ A96				
	♣ A42				

BIDDING: I was in the North chair and didn't care much for my ace less, flat hand. But, after my partner opened a strong 1NT, my nine high card points were enough to invite game. My 2♣ Stayman bid was doubled by my left hand opponent asking for a club lead. This told me that my queen of clubs was in harm's way and had lost value. I decided the hand was no longer worth an invitation to game.

PLAY: West led the nine of club to the ten, jack, and declarer's ace. Declarer led a low heart to dummy's jack and East won the king. Next, East played the king and a third club for West to ruff. Declarer still had to lose a spade trick and a heart trick and ended with eight tricks and a good score. Most of the N/S pairs ended in game either down one or two tricks depending on the opening lead.

Of course it could have been worse for E/W: if South had redoubled the 2♣ contract that would have been successful for a score of +760.

You need to be sure you have all thirteen tricks before bidding a grand slam. Having the right tools can make it a lot easier.

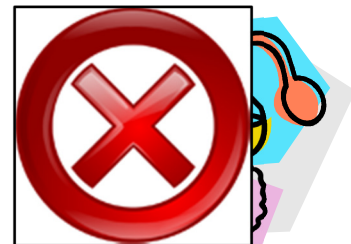
Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-46	♠ AKQ		West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ J954		-	-	-	1♥
Vul N/S	♦ A10976		Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
	♣ A		Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
♠ 87542	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♠ 10963	Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
♥ 7		♥ 86	Pass			
♦ 853		♦ KJ42	Pass			
♣ 7653		♣ Q42	Pass			
	♠ J					
	♥ AKQ1032					
	♦ Q					
	♣ KJ1098					

BIDDING: North's bid of 2NT was a game-forcing heart raise. South's four club rebid show a second GOOD 5+card suit. South's response to the 4NT Roman Keycard bid showed two keycards (4 aces + trump king) along with the queen of hearts. Knowing the club suit would be a source of tricks, north confidently bid the grand slam.

PLAY: West led a heart and declarer had no trouble finding thirteen tricks: 3 spades, 6 hearts, 1 diamond, 2 clubs, and a club ruff. In a local 16 table game only four N/S pairs bid and made the grand. Nine pairs ended in the small slam with an overtrick while one bid 6NT and received a bad score when there were only twelve tricks. One pair went down three tricks in 7NT while one lucky pair bid and, with a little help, made 7NT for a top result.

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 11 of a 16-part series

**This month: The section titled
“JUMP OVERCALL” & “OPENING PREEMPTS”.**

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

For the section titled “JUMP OVERCALL”, consider when your LHO opens the bidding 1 club and your partner overcalls 2 hearts. What does this bid mean? If this means your partner has a strong hand (16+ points and a good suit), then check “strong” on the convention card in this section. If this bid shows intermediate values (ex: 8-15 HCPs and a 5+ card suit), then mark intermediate. Both of these agreements MUST be alerted when used. The most common method is the jump overcall is the equivalent of a weak 2 opening bid (i.e. 6-card suit with less than an opening hand). Check “weak” for this agreement.

For the section titled “OPENING PREEMPTS”, describe your partnership agreement for opening at the 3 level or 4 level. The choices are ‘sound’ (i.e. 2 of the top 3 or 3 of the top 5 honors in the bid suit), ‘light’ (i.e. values less than ‘sound’), or ‘very light’ (i.e. even less than ‘light’). The best suggestion is to mark ‘sound’ for vulnerable preempts and light for non-vulnerable preempts. Hardly anyone does ‘very light’. If your partnership has a special agreement to respond to 3 or 4 level opening bids, record on the line after ‘conv/resp’. Any agreement marked on this line must be alerted.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “OVER OPP”’S T/O DOUBLE”.



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

2016/3/16	70.00%	Bev Branning & John Ford(NLMers)
2016/3/14	71.11%	Larry Ziegler & Rick Kern(99ers)
2016/3/14	70.56%	Mike Gross & Carroll Kinnaman(99ers)
2016/2/10	72.02%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(NLMers)
2016/2/3	71.67%	Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(NLMers)
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



#101 - WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

	♠ A95 ♥ K854 ♦ KJ653 ♣ Q	
♠ JT732 ♥ T72 ♦ A98 ♣ T2	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ Q8 ♥ QJ9 ♦ Q7 ♣ KJ9843
	♠ K64 ♥ A63 ♦ T42 ♣ A765	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

			1♣
Pass	1♠	Dbf	2♣
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Optimistic N-S bidding lands South in a seemingly hopeless 3NT. But one good thing about such contracts is that it's so much fun when they make! You will need to put on your hornswoggling shoes for this one.

West leads the ♠T and Declarer holds up her Ace. East continues the suit, and it looks safe for Declarer to win that one (surely West is now out of Clubs). Can Declarer make

nine tricks if East holds the ♦A? No, if East has that card then the contract will be down on the run of the Clubs. So, if Declarer is to make 3NT, she must assume that West has the ♦A. Next question. Where is the ♦Q? If West has the ♦A, then Declarer can safely assume that, in order for East to have his opening bid, he must hold all the missing Queens, including the ♦Q.

Things are looking bleak, but perhaps East's ♦Q is singleton, will that help? No, the ♦Q will fall under the King, but West has the spots and will get two Diamond tricks, giving Declarer no more than eight total tricks.

When all else fails, Declarer must rely on a defensive error. Can you see a way to put East to the test? Yes, there's a neat little swindle in the cards! After winning the ♣A, Declarer crosses to Dummy's ♥K and leads a low Diamond! If East is not at the top of his game he will routinely play low, and Declarer's Ten will force the Ace. Later, the ♦Q falls under the King, and Declarer has four Diamond tricks and nine altogether!

#102 – A REVEALING AUCTION

	♠ Q765 ♥ 7 ♦ AK8 ♣ AKQ86	
♠ KT43 ♥ 98632 ♦ 974 ♣ 9	North West East Declarer	♠ A982 ♥ AQ ♦ T52 ♣ 7532
	♠ J ♥ KJT54 ♦ QJ63 ♣ JT4	

Both Vulnerable

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

The delicate N-S auction was designed to determine whether they belonged in 3NT or 5♣. Eventually they chose 3NT but along the way they generously donated all sorts of useful information to their opponents.

West mulled over the auction, always a good idea before making the opening lead. What did North's 2♦ mean? It was inconceivable that N-S would play in a Diamond contract, so West concluded that North was bidding out his pattern, which appeared likely to be 4=1=3=5. By so doing, North was indirectly saying to Partner (and to the opponents) "I am short in Hearts, if your Hearts are weak then perhaps we belong in Clubs rather than 3NT".

As for South, he had bid Hearts, after which he would not have bid No Trump without something in the unbid Diamond suit. For his third bid he raised Clubs, at which point there didn't seem to be much room for a whole lot of Spades in his hand, maybe two but quite possibly only one.

After that riveting and revealing auction, what would you lead? Not a Heart, nor a Club, those can hardly be right. A Diamond lead doesn't seem so appealing, either, with North and South both indirectly showing something in the suit. That leaves a Spade. Which one? Yes, West must lead the *King*, protecting against South having a singleton Queen or Jack. Nicely done, Mr. West, the ♠K is the killing lead! And, of course, West will be sure to follow up with the ♠T at Trick 2.

A more Neanderthal North would simply have raised 1NT to 3NT. Now West has fewer clues. He might lead a top-of-nothing Diamond, he might lead a Spade, but even if he chooses the latter there won't be a compelling reason to lead the spectacular King.

#103 – PARTNERSHIP DEFENSE

	♠ AQJT7 ♥ Q32 ♦ A76 ♣ 74	
♠ K6532 ♥ K86 ♦ 92 ♣ J32	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ T95 ♦ K84 ♣ AKQT85
	♠ 98 ♥ AJ74 ♦ QJT53 ♣ 96	

None Vulnerable

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

It's often said that defense is the toughest part of the game. But sound partnership agreements are a big help, and on this board E-W work together like a well-oiled machine to get a ruff and defeat the contract.

A part-score battle lands N-S in 3♦. West leads a Club and this is where the partnership agreement comes in. On opening lead against a suit contract, with three small in a suit, common practice is to lead a low one. But an exception occurs when the opening leader has bid the suit, as she did in the auction above. In such a case, it is customary to lead the top card, denying an honor, safe in the knowledge that Partner won't misread the lead as a doubleton.

Alert readers will have noticed that West does not actually have three small. Precisely! So her opening lead is a *low* Club, promising an honor. East wins that with the Queen and tries to figure out where the defense might be getting their five tricks. The ♦K is one ... two Club tricks hopefully ... surely not more than one Heart (West would no doubt have led a high Heart holding AK) ... and no Spades. That's only four, and a Spade ruff is needed to get to five. So, At Trick 2, East shifts to a Spade, leading into Dummy's imposing suit. West plays low on this (otherwise Declarer's Heart losers will all disappear), and Declarer now loses the trump finesse to East's King. East confidently underleads his ♣AK to West's Jack, gets his Spade ruff, and eventually the ♥K becomes the setting trick. Nicely done!

#104 – NO MATH REQUIRED

	♠ KT8 ♥ QJ652 ♦ A874 ♣ 7	
♠ 53 ♥ KT84 ♦ QT63 ♣ T98	North West East Declarer	♠ 642 ♥ A97 ♦ J92 ♣ KJ64
	♠ AQJ97 ♥ 3 ♦ K5 ♣ AQ532	

E-W Vulnerable

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

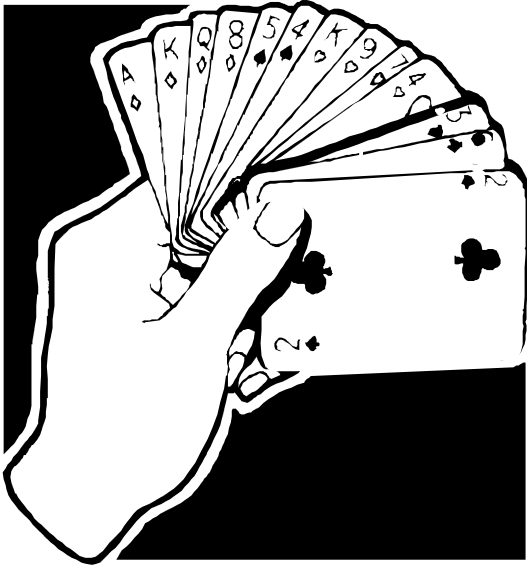
This week's hand offers two ways to play the Clubs. Which is better? No need to be a math whiz, some simple logic comes up with the same correct solution as that calculated by our resident Professor of Statistics.

West led a trump, a good choice! After that opening lead, this is not a good slam at all, requiring Clubs to be brought home for no losers, with only two Club ruffs available on the board. Do you cash the ♣A and ruff a couple of Clubs, hoping that the ♣K comes down in three rounds? Or do you finesse the ♣Q and then ruff two Clubs, hoping that the King is onside and comes down in four rounds?

Things get simpler as soon as Declarer realizes that, regardless of who holds the King, Clubs must be 4-3, otherwise the suit will never set up. What are the chances of the Club finesse working? 50%. What are the chances of one of the defenders holding ♣Kxx (we are counting the Jack as an x for this discussion)? The aforementioned professor would make some calculations with lots of factorials involved and announce that, if Clubs are 4-3, there are 30 possible holdings of Kxx and 40 holdings of Kxxx. That makes Kxx about a 43% probability, not as good as the finesse. And simple logic arrives at the same conclusion. If one hand has four places for the King and the other has only three places, where is the King more likely to be? That's right, in the hand with longer Clubs.

So, Declarer wins the opening trump lead in Dummy, finesses the ♣Q, ruffs a Club, crosses to the ♦K, ruffs a Club, cashes ♦A, ruffs a Diamond, draws trumps, and cashes the remaining Clubs. 12 tricks!

Upcoming tournaments:



Illini Regional

May 24-30, 2016

Hawthorn Suites

101 Trade Center Dr., Champaign, IL 61820

Rochester Sectional

Jul 8-10, 2016

Rochester Public Library

1 Community Drive, Rochester, IL 62563

