



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 9 – September, 2016

16 pages



September Events

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

September 5 – NO GAME September 12 – quarterly club championship open pairs

September 19 – open pairs September 26 – open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Thursday, September 1, 11:45AM – International fund open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, September 3, 11:45AM – International fund open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, September 5, 6:15PM – NO GAME

Wednesday, September 7, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, September 8, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, September 10, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

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

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

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

Thursday, September 15, 11:45AM – International fund open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, September 17, NO GAME -TOURNAMENT in East Peoria

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

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

Thursday, September 22, 11:45AM – International fund open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, September 24, 11:45AM – International fund open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, September 26, 99ers only pairs – First Christian

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

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

Thursday, September 29, 11:45AM – International fund 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

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 8/6/2016 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 3,700.66 Betty Capodice
- 2 3,460.25 Steve Babin
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 3 2,627.32 Zack Freehill
- 4 2,438.89 Eunice Patton
- 5 2,109.27 Mike Tomlianovich
- *** 1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 6 1,791.92 Cindy Moore
- 7 1,774.63 JoAnn Schroeder
- 8 1,698.61 Ann Schuyler
- 9 1,600.20 Dewey Gronau
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 10 1,315.12 Lori Moore
- 11 1,282.05 Ron Emmett
- 12 1,273.44 Charlie Morton
- 13 1,263.31 Stan Gutzman
- 14 1,193.59 Jeanne Strand
- 15 1,134.96 Ivey Weaver
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 16 1,043.00 Jean Barnett
- 17 979.60 Randall Motchan
- *** 835.37 Glen Beaman
- 18 800.78 Jeff Furler
- *** 792.95 Don Strand
- 19 794.60 Henrietta Crain
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- 20 757.72 Dennis Moll
- 21 755.11 Steve Wulfers
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 22 699.35 Peg Deutsch
- 23 696.78 Dave Freehill
- *** 610.73 Martin Compton
- 24 621.27 Joyce Clay
- 25 583.47 Stevie Joslin
- *** deceased

Other players:

- ***12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 12,095.09 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,787.85 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,658.11 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,072.42 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 4,024.58 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,931.66 Christine Carroll-Champaign
- 3,801.08 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,897.29 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,608.30 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,548.87 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,528.83 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,518.30 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,515.01 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,446.86 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,369.53 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,322.97 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,936.21 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,809.19 Tim Cull-Arizona
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,765.94 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,700.74 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,566.01 Dennis Fitton-Urbana
- 1,533.77 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,279.89 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 1,010.94 Chuck Langley-Mechanicsburg
- *** 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 964.47 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 953.96 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 795.24 Doug Steele-Seymour
- 583.15 Wes Seitz-Champaign



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#1 -

Minor suit slams are often difficult to bid. There is a natural reluctance to go beyond 3NT, particularly in a pairs event with Matchpoints scoring.

Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-06	♠ AJ84		West	North	East	South
Vul N/S	♥ Q4		-	1NT	Pass	2♣
	♦ AK8		Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
	♣ Q982		Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
♠ 753	□	♠ Q62	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
♥ 973		♥ KJ106	Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
♦ 95432		♦ QJ107	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 75		♣ 106				
	♠ K109					
	♥ A852					
	♦ 6					
	♣ AKJ43					

BIDDING: After his partner's 1NT opening bid, South's hand was good enough for slam if a fit could be found. First South used Stayman but North's two spade response denied holding four hearts. South's three club bid showed five+ clubs and most likely four hearts. North liked his hand in support of clubs and cooperated by cue bidding diamonds and then spades. The four club bid was Roman Keycard Blackwood with the response showing two keycards plus the queen of clubs. South bid the slam.

PLAY: West led a trump against the slam. Declarer saw he could discard a spade on the king of diamonds so he needed to trump two hearts in dummy. At trick two declarer played ace and another heart. The opponents led another club but with the 2-2 trump break, it now became easy. His 12 tricks were: 2 spades, 1 heart, 2 heart ruffs, 2 diamonds, and 5 clubs.

Those daring enough to bid 6NT had to find the queen of spades to succeed. That is, unless East was foolish enough to lead a heart away from his king.

#2 -

Many card combinations occur frequently and are known to most players. However, there are others that present themselves rarely or are simply missed.

Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-07	♠ K6		West	North	East	South
Vul E/W	♥ Q92		Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥
	♦ AK96		Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
	♣ J987		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ QJ3		♠ A109842				
♥ 1085		♥ 3				
♦ QJ853		♦ 104				
♣ 102		♣ KQ64				
	♠ 75					
	♥ AKJ764					
	♦ 72					
	♣ A53					

BIDDING: After East's overcall, North-South reached game in hearts.

PLAY: West led the queen of spades and the defense quickly had two tricks. At trick three, East exited with a heart and to succeed declarer had to limit his club losers to one. From the auction, declarer expected both club honors to be with East so his options were few. He drew trumps followed by a low club to dummy's nine. East won the queen and exited with a spade. Declarer ruffed, entered dummy with a diamond, and continued with the jack of clubs. It did not matter if East played the king as long as the ten fell on declarer's left.

This play in the club suit is called an intra-finesse and is a good one to have in your inventory.

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#3 –

Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-08	♠ 7654				
	♥ 987				
Vul E/W	♦ Q		West	North	East
	♣ A9864		-	-	-
					South
					1 ♣
♠ 102		♠ AKQ983	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠
♥ J106		♥ A432	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
♦ 9754		♦ 86	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
♣ J532		♣ 10	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ J				
	♥ KQ5				
	♦ AKJ1032				
	♣ KQ7				

BIDDING: This N/S pair uses a Big Club bidding system. The one club opening bid showed 17+ high card points and the one diamond response indicated 0-7 points. East overcalled one spade and South showed his diamond suit. North showed a club suit and South cue bid spades asking North to bid 3NT with a spade stopper. North retreated to clubs and South bid the game.

PLAY: West led the ten of spades to East's queen. East cashed the ace of hearts followed by the ace of spades. Declarer trumped the spade and then cashed the KQ of clubs. When East discarded on the second club, declarer had a problem. To avoid losing a trick to the jack of club, declarer would have to shorten dummy's trumps. He continued with the ace of diamonds and then trumped a diamond. He returned to his hand with a heart and trumped another diamond. He led another heart to his hand and played his remaining diamonds. Here was the two-card ending:



Declarer played the jack of diamonds and West was finished. Of course a five diamond contract would have been easier but executing a trump coup is always fun.

#4 –

Preempts can work for you but may also drive your opponents into successful contracts they might not have otherwise found.

#16-09	♣ 10853				
Vul E/W	♥ AQ9	West	North	East	South
	♦ AK92	-	-	-	1♠
	♣ 76	3♣	4♣	Pass	5♣
♠ 74		Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
♥ 83		Pass			
♦ J64					
♣ QJ10543					
	♠ AKQJ2				
	♥ 762				
	♦ 1085				
	♣ AK				

BIDDING: West made a bold preemptive jump in clubs. North had a good hand for a spade contract and cue bid clubs to deliver that message. South had extras but no red suit honor so he cue bid clubs. Holding two aces North felt obligated to bid the slam.

PLAY: West led the queen of clubs and declarer saw three possible losers: two hearts and one diamond. It appeared he needed a 3-3 diamond break as well as a successful heart finesse. However, he saw another possibility that might require an error by East. After winning the club he drew trumps followed by the A-K of diamonds. Next he cashed the king of clubs followed by a low diamond from both hands. East won the queen and was end-played; he either had to lead a heart into the AQ or give declarer a ruff/sluff. He finally exited with a third club. Declarer discarded a heart from his hand and trumped in dummy. Declarer discarded his last heart loser on the 13th diamond and wrapped up his slam.

The point of cashing the diamond honors early was to make it less obvious to East that he needed to get rid of his queen of diamonds. As it was, a strong defender would have been on the lookout for such a maneuver and avoided the endplay by playing the queen on either the ace or king.

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 15 of a 16-part series

This month: the section titled “opening leads”.

It would be helpful to have a copy of the convention card as you read this tip.

The convention card shows a default agreement for opening leads.

A variety of suit patterns are shown with the “standard” lead in bold lettering. For example, should you decide to lead from a suit that has 4 cards all less than a 10-spot, the “standard” lead is the 4th highest in the suit. If your lead agreement for any of the shown suit patterns is other than the bold card, then circle the one that you would normally lead.

Leading against suit contracts are many times different than leading against no-trump contracts. So there is a section for suits and a section for no-trump.

Suggestion: When in doubt, take the default shown.

Also in this section is a marking for your general lead from your longest suit. When leading from your longest suit, most players use 4th best leads against both suit and no-trump contracts. Then you need to check the boxes after “4th best” for both suits and no-trump. There are a few players who use 3rd/5th best leads.

Lastly is the selection of what do you follow suit with when your partner makes an opening lead. Most players show attitude, then check the first box after the word “attitude”. Some players will use “count” or “suit preference”.

Remember: you usually show attitude when partner leads and show count when the opponent leads.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “the defensive carding section”.

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PEORIA'S Wienman Memorial BRIDGE SECTIONAL

Sept 16th, Sept 17th, and Sept 18th 2016

Fon du Lac Park District Administration Center 201 Veterans Drive, **EAST PEORIA, IL 61611**
Ph. 309 699-3923 **Take I-74 to Exit 96, Turn Right, then Right at first stoplight (Veterans Drive)**

Schedule of Events

Friday, Sept 16th 11:00 AM - Stratified Pairs/Team Event* 3:30 PM - Stratified Pairs/ Team Event*

*If table count allows, a concurrent stratified team event may be added to the pair's event. Teams may be formed in advance or randomly by DIC. This gives players a chance to earn the higher of masterpoint awards from the two events.

Saturday, Sept 17th 11:00 AM – Stratified Pairs/Team Event* 3:30 PM – Stratified Pairs/Team Event* Charity Game for Invictus Woods—earn extra points

*If table count allows, a concurrent stratified team event may be added to the pair's event. Teams may be formed in advance or randomly by DIC. This gives players a chance to earn the higher of masterpoint awards from the two events.

Sunday, Sept 18th 10:30 AM – Stratified Open Swiss teams Double session with lunch provided. Break approximately 2:00 or 2:30

Stratification

A- Open; B - Under 1500; C - Under 500

NOTE: All stratifications will be determined by the team or partnership's average points.

Entry Fees

Friday and Saturday - \$10 per session

Sunday - \$25 per person (\$100 per team) Lunch provided

Note: \$3 extra for non-ACBL member or unpaid members

General Comments

Complimentary Coffee and Snacks during the tournament.

ALL GAMES WELCOME NEW PLAYERS.

IF ATTENDANCE WARRANTS, WE WILL HAVE 199ers GAMES.

Please note Zero Tolerance Policy is enforced

Unit 208 Tournaments are Fragrance Free: Thank you for NOT wearing perfumes and colognes!

Tournament Chair: Bill Bulfer

(309) 264-7629

E-mail: bulfewa@hotmail.com

Partnerships: Phyllis Rahn

(309) 231-5460

E-mail: pjrahn@gmail.com

Motel: Recommendations: *Nicer:* Holiday Inn and Suites, Embassy Suites, Stoney Creek, Par-a-Dice

Moderate: Hampton Inn East Peoria (close to Par-a-Dice), Fairfield Inn & Suites

Budget: Super 8—Closest to Tournament Site



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Year 2016 only
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2016/8/23	73.33%	Joni Newburg & Valerie Crutchfield(Clinton invitational)
2016/8/15	71.35%	Tom Teeters & Steve Wulfers
2016/8/6	71.33%	Christine Carroll & Wes Seitz
2016/8/4	70.14%	Dennis Moll & Zach Freehill
2016/7/27	70.95%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(NLMers)
2016/6/28	73.33%	Joni Newburg & Lois Johnson(Clinton invitational)
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)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#113 – TRIPLE PLAY

	♠ 8754 ♥ AK65 ♦ 9832 ♣ T	
♠ K6 ♥ QT43 ♦ J ♣ J98764	<i>North</i>	♠ 3 ♥ J9872 ♦ AK65 ♣ K53
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AQJT92 ♥ ♦ QT74 ♣ AQ2	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

4♠ All Pass

When, as a defender, we have a trump holding such as Kx or QJx or JTxx, conventional wisdom tells us that it is frequently better not to chase after ruffs as we would have scored that trump trick naturally. Let's see how that advice works on this deal.

First Play: West ignores conventional wisdom and leads his singleton Diamond. East takes his ♦K and ♦A and gives West his ruff. Now, with only two enemy trumps remaining,

Declarer should play for the drop, and that is 10 tricks for Declarer. Actually, Declarer had a second compelling reason to play for the drop. If he were to finesse the Spade he would be playing West to have two singletons. That's not impossible, of course, but with such extreme distribution, and being non-vulnerable, he might have been heard from in the bidding, don't you think?

Second Play: Our second West decides to lead a Heart, reasoning that it would be better to win the ♠K (when Declarer finesses) and *then* try for the Diamond ruff. That way he scores *two* trump tricks. Dummy's Ace wins that opening Heart lead and, sure enough, the Spade finesse is lost to West, and the defense now scores two Diamonds and a ruff. Down one!

Third Play: That Heart was a better opening lead from West, but it was followed by some pretty atrocious play by Declarer! All he has to do is to cash both of Dummy's Hearts, pitching Diamonds, and then take the Spade finesse. Now the defense can cash their Diamonds, but Declarer can ruff the third round high. 10 tricks.

#114 – A BLOCKING PLAY

	♠ AK6 ♥ K64 ♦ J72 ♣ T984	
♠ T32 ♥ J73 ♦ AT983 ♣ A6	North West East Declarer	♠ Q9854 ♥ 9852 ♦ Q4 ♣ 32
	♠ J7 ♥ AQT ♦ K65 ♣ KQJ75	

E-W Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
		Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
	Pass	Pass		

Against 3NT, West starts out with the Diamond Ten, it's the standard lead from that holding (top of a so-called "interior sequence"). You are Declarer, and the questions of the day are "What's the big danger?" and "What are you going to do about it?"

You have enough tricks once the enemy's ♣A is out of the way. If the defenders' Diamonds are 4-3 then nothing can go

wrong, you cannot lose more than three Diamonds and the ♣A. So, the danger is a 5-2 Diamond split, and you have a make-or-break play at Trick 1.

Pretending that you haven't already peeked at the E-W hands, what 5-card Diamond holdings could West have led from? One possibility is T9xxx, in which case you are safe whatever happens. A second possibility is QT9xx, in which case East will win his Ace and return a Diamond, after which the contract will depend on the whereabouts of the ♣A ... if it's in the hand with long Diamonds you are down ... if not, then you make your contract (with an overtrick).

In both the above cases it doesn't matter what you do, the lie of the cards will determine your success or failure. But now consider what to do if West has led from AT9xx. Low from Dummy, low from East, what do you play? You could duck, praying that the ♣A is with the short Diamonds. But the correct play is to win the first trick with the King. Now the Diamonds are blocked! When the defense gets in with the ♣A, their Diamonds are all winners but they cannot be untangled. So, the winning plays at Trick 1 are low from Dummy and the King from hand.

P.S. There is another possible West holding. He might have led from AQT9x, in which case Declarer may have a second stopper by playing Dummy's Jack at Trick 1. But that play also requires West to hold the ♣A. The odds are better that West has QT9xx than that he has AQT9x *and* the ♣A.

#115 – WHICH FINESSE?

	♠ A6432 ♥ 832 ♦ 642 ♣ T6	
♠ KJ87 ♥ K65 ♦ T98 ♣ J72	North West East Declarer	♠ QT95 ♥ 7 ♦ 753 ♣ K9843
	♠ ♥ AQJT94 ♦ AKQJ ♣ AQ5	

When this deal was played in a team match, both Souths charged into 6♥ with little or no encouragement from North. Now, you have probably noticed that Dummy is alarmingly short of entries. So you might think that at Table 1, where West led a helpful Spade, Declarer would be in rather better shape than at Table 2 where West led a distinctly unhelpful Diamond. But, in fact, 6♥ went down at Table 1 and made at Table 2!

At Table 1, Dummy's ♠A won the first trick and Declarer pitched a Club loser. Seeing 12 easy tricks if the ♥K was onside, Declarer ran the ♥8, but was down when West took his King and returned a trump. Declarer had blundered grievously, as there was now no way to avoid a Club loser. Instead of giving himself just one chance to finesse he could have given himself two chances. Yes, on the opening Spade lead Declarer must not throw a Club loser, instead it is a Diamond winner that has to go (the Ace would be the ostentatious choice, of course). Now Declarer takes the Club finesse and, if it loses, then he can get to the board with a Club ruff and try the Heart finesse. Of course, when the Club finesse works, then Declarer cashes the ♠A, ruffs a Club (with the Eight, to be safe), and tries for an overtrick with a Heart finesse.

At Table 2, after the more challenging Diamond lead, Declarer's play at Trick 2 was the clever ♥Q, trying to force an entry to Dummy. But West was just as clever and ducked! Declarer persisted with the ♥J and West brilliantly ducked that one too! But Declarer would not be denied and, leaving West's remaining trump at large, she now played Diamond winners. Whatever West did on the last Diamond, Declarer would score 12 tricks! Great defense, great declaring!

#116 – THE ART OF CONCEALMENT

	♠ T32 ♥ J43 ♦ AK62 ♣ AT9	
♠ K74 ♥ T982 ♦ QT5 ♣ 432	North West East Declarer	♠ AJ95 ♥ 765 ♦ 9843 ♣ K5
	♠ Q86 ♥ AKQ ♦ J7 ♣ QJ876	

South opens 1NT, which nowadays usually shows 15-17 HCP. North bids 3NT, and West leads the ♥T.

Declarer can see enough tricks once the ♣K is out of the way, but those Spades look somewhat fragile. We have two questions. Firstly, how do you play the Hearts? Secondly, how do you play the Clubs? These questions are not misprints, we'd really like to know!

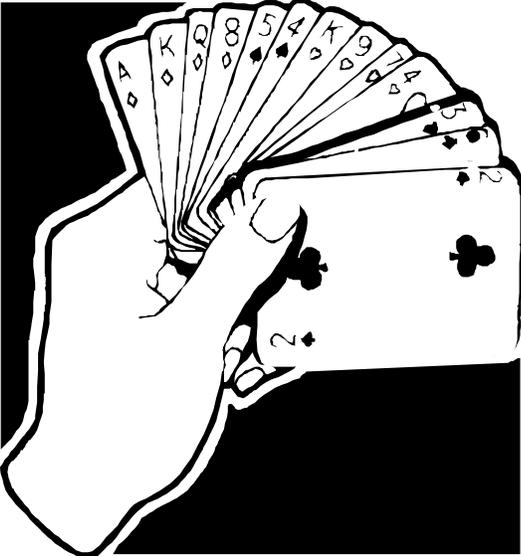
Declarer can see that the opening Heart lead is from T9xx or some such holding. But, from East's seat, it might well be from holdings such as AT9x or KT9x or QT9x. How can Declarer muddy the waters and create some doubt in East's mind? She could routinely play low from Dummy, as most

would, but the play most likely to cause confusion is surely the Jack! Declarer then wins the trick with the Ace, and East will say to himself: "I've seen this movie before. Declarer was hoping that I had the Queen and would cover. Clearly she is laying a false trail and has AK doubleton in the suit"

Now Declarer plays on Clubs. If she leads the ♣Q then that pretty much advertises the situation. So, instead, she runs the less informative Jack, and when East wins the King he'll have some thinking to do. Declarer has a maximum of three points in Diamonds, and appears to have seven points in Hearts. The Club situation won't be clear, and East might visualize Declarer's hand as: ♠KQx, ♥AK, ♦QTxx, ♣J87x, or something similar. If so then a Heart continuation beats the contract.

A less devious Declarer will play a low Heart from Dummy on Trick 1, and will run the ♣Q at Trick 2. When East wins his King, he'll have more clues, and is more likely to diagnose Declarer's Spade weakness. If he does, he will be sure to switch to the Spade *Jack*, a so-called "surrounding play" which allows the defense to grab four Spade tricks, setting the contract.

Upcoming tournaments:



East Peoria Sectional
Sep 16-18, 2016
Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center
201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

