



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 12 – December, 2016

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 5 – charity club championship open pairs December 12 – inter-club championship open pairs

December 19 – Christmas party & quarterly club championship open pairs

December 26 – NO GAME

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Thursday, December 1, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 3, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 5, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, December 7, 1:15PM - NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 8, 11:45AM – GNT fund raiser open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 10, 11:45AM – GNT fund raiser open pairs – Centennial Christian

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

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

Wednesday, December 14, 1:15PM – quarterly club champ NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 15, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 17, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 19, 6:15PM - quarterly club championship 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, December 21, 1:15PM – NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 22, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 24, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 26, NO GAME

Wednesday, December 28, NO GAME

Thursday, December 29, NO GAME

Saturday, December 31, NO GAME

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner. All game results are posted online: <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!





The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 10/6/2016 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	3,703.79	Betty Capodice
2	3,492.65	Steve Babin
3	2,682.83	Zack Freehill
***	2,557.18	Laura Addison
4	2,481.99	Eunice Patton
5	2,119.39	Mike Tomlianovich
6	1,861.00	Cindy Moore
7	1,834.73	JoAnn Schroeder
***	1,735.61	Steve Hawthorne
8	1,733.39	Ann Schuyler
9	1,605.31	Dewey Gronau
***	1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
10	1,394.04	Lori Moore
***	1,320.43	Ed Lombard
11	1,307.37	Ron Emmett
12	1,296.03	Charlie Morton
13	1,263.31	Stan Gutzman
14	1,198.59	Jeanne Strand
15	1,145.24	Ivey Weaver
***	1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
16	1,045.36	Jean Barnett
17	985.49	Randall Motchan
***	835.37	Glen Beaman
18	842.93	Jeff Furler
19	794.85	Henrietta Crain
***	792.95	Don Strand
***	780.34	Jack Kessler
20	767.92	Steve Wulfers
21	766.07	Dennis Moll
***	741.06	Pearl Harris
22	710.68	Dave Freehill
23	699.35	Peg Deutsch
24	640.48	Joyce Clay
***	610.73	Martin Compton
25	589.52	Stevie Joslin
***		deceased

Other players:

***	12,741.55	Dick Benson-LeRoy
	12,134.96	Chris Benson-LeRoy
	4,828.27	John Seng-Champaign
	4,703.48	Larry Matheny-Colorado
***	4,073.45	Alan Wienman-Morton
	4,109.41	Ron Sholes-Springfield
	4,025.08	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
	3,954.53	Christine Carroll-Champaign
	3,821.64	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
	2,931.31	Paul Lindauer-Varna
	2,628.44	Carole Sholes-Springfield
	2,596.32	Mary Allen-Peoria
	2,543.64	Ray Russ-Henry
	2,534.82	Pat Carrington-Champaign
	2,523.78	Georgia Heth-Morton
	2,447.58	Gail Moon-Tennessee
	2,375.73	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
	2,360.84	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
	1,955.41	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
	1,811.85	Tim Cull-Arizona
	1,779.05	John Maloney-Champaign
***	1,776.22	John Burdon
	1,728.32	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
	1,567.10	Dennis Fitton-Urbana
	1,533.77	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
	1,280.61	Jim Moon-Tennessee
	1,036.79	Chuck Langley-Mechanicsburg
	992.53	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
	980.70	Phil Kenney-Eureka
***	916.41	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
	796.29	Doug Steele-Seymour
	609.76	Wes Seitz-Champaign



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#1 -

Too often the auction is forgotten once the play of the hand begins. Such a lapse of memory can be costly.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-18	♠ A10	West	North	East	South
	♥ 542	-	-	Pass	1NT
Vul N/S	♦ Q642	2♦	3NT	Pass	Pass
	♣ AJ94	Pass			
♠ 953	□				
♥ KQ1097					
♦ K1087					
♣ 6					
	♠ QJ87				
	♥ A6				
	♦ AJ93				
	♣ K105				
	♠ K642				
	♥ J83				
	♦ 5				
	♣ Q8732				

BIDDING: West's two diamond bid showed nine+ cards in the red suits. The vulnerability convinced North to bid game rather than defend.

Play: West led the queen of hearts asking his partner to unblock the jack or otherwise give count. East cooperated by following with the jack and declarer won the second round. Next, declarer took the spade finesse losing to East's king. East led a third heart and West cashed three hearts for down one. West exited with a spade and declarer had only 7 tricks: 3 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. The diamond king figured to be with West so declarer needed to find the queen of clubs. Several declarers played West for this card simply because he had entered the auction.

Enough information was available to declarer. West had shown up with 5 hearts and followed to 3 spades. Since the auction placed West with either 4 or 5 diamonds, he could only hold 1 club. So, a club to the ace followed by a low one back to the 10 allowed declarer to get out for down one. The difference between -100 and -200 was five Matchpoints.

#2 -

Too often we just play bridge rather than consider the scoring. In a pairs event, we may have a different goal than in a team game or at Rubber Bridge.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-19	♠ 10762	West	North	East	South
	♥ 92	-	-	-	1♠
Vul N/S	♦ J1032	Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
	♣ A73	Pass			
♣ 4					
♥ J106					
♦ K7654					
♣ KJ102					
	♠ AK9				
	♥ KQ854				
	♦ 8				
	♣ 9654				
	♠ QJ853				
	♥ A73				
	♦ AQ9				
	♣ Q8				

BIDDING: North's jump to three spades was preemptive. This kept E/W out of the auction.

Play: West led the jack of hearts ducked all around. Declarer wanted to keep East off of the lead to avoid a diamond lead. Declarer won the heart continuation followed by the queen of spades. East won the queen and shifted to his singleton diamond. Declarer paused to consider the hand. He had to lose 2 spades, 1 heart, and 1 club so the diamond king needed to be with East for this contract to succeed. However, this was a pairs event so making the contract was not always the top priority. It appeared that E/W could make either 9 or 10 tricks in a heart contract for either +140 or +170. That meant that for N/S -100 would be a good score but -200 would be a disaster.

With this in mind, declarer rose with the ace of diamonds to lead another trump. East won the ace and shifted to a club. It went queen, king, ace and declarer drew the last trump and ended down one. It is clear that taking the diamond finesse would have resulted in -200. At most other tables North either passed his partner's opening bid or raised to two spades. This allowed E/W to enter the auction and find their heart fit.

#3 –

A good declarer remembers the auction, knows the percentage play in most suit combinations, and also carefully watches the cards as they are played.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

#16-20	♠ K652		West	North	East	South
	♥ KQ98					
Vul E/W	♦ 952		-	-	-	1♥
	♣ A5		2♣	3♣	Pass	4♥
♠ 3		♠ J1097	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ J542	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥				
♦ AQ4		♦ J1087				
♣ KQ974		♣ J10863				
	♠ AQ86					
	♥ A10763					
	♦ K63					
	♣ 2					

BIDDING: North cue bid clubs to show an invitational or better raise of hearts and South went on to game. The vulnerability kept East from a club raise so they missed their cold game.

Play: West led the king of clubs to dummy's ace. Declarer played the king of hearts discovering the bad break. He played three more rounds of hearts finessing West for the jack. Next he played the ace-queen of spades and was disappointed when that suit also broke poorly. It appeared declarer must find the ace of diamonds with East and the auction made that unlikely. However, declarer saw another line. West had discarded two clubs on the spades and East had dumped four clubs on the hearts. Declarer cashed the last trump discarding a spade from dummy. Now he led a low spade to the king as West discarded a diamond. Dummy's last club was now played and here was the ending:



Declarer discarded his spade on the club and West won but had to concede a 10th trick to declarer's king of diamonds. At the other table 4♥ failed by one trick.

#4 –

Too often there is a huge difference between what happens at the table and what should happen.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-21	♠ 9	West	North	East	South
	♥ 9762				
Vul N/S	♦ Q1042	-	-	3♠	3NT
	♣ 8754	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 86					
♥ AQ1084					
♦ K76					
♣ KQ2					
	♠ AK10				
	♥ K5				
	♦ AJ95				
	♣ A1096				

BIDDING: After East's preempt, South bid 3NT.

Play: West led the eight of spades to the jack and ace. There was a lot of work to do and no entry to dummy. Declarer started with the ace and a low diamond. West rose with the king to play another spade to the queen and king. Declarer entered dummy with a diamond to the ten followed by a low club. The nine lost to the queen and West with nothing but hearts and clubs, exited with a low club. Declarer won the jack with the ace followed by another club. West now had to lead a heart and declarer had nine tricks: 3 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

Now let's look at what should have happened. West should realize that East has very little in high card strength and it would be futile to attempt to establish spade tricks. He should start with either the ace of hearts or a low heart. When he get back into the lead with the king of diamonds, he can now cash four heart tricks. He will later get a club trick for down two.

While it is often right to lead your partner's bid suit, it is not mandatory.

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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!!



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Year 2016 only
Sponsored by: TBA**

2016/9/12	72.22%	JoAnn Schroeder & Ray Dostal
2016/9/1	70.83%	Jerry Oswald & Steve Babin
2016/8/31	70.63%	Sallie Boge & Bob Ragland(499ers)
2016/8/29	72.92%	Mary Lou Gold & Gaye Hoselton(99ers)
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(499ers)
2016/6/28	73.33%	Joni Newburg & Lois Johnson(Clinton invitational)
2016/3/16	70.00%	Bev Branning & John Ford(499ers)
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(499ers)
2016/2/3	71.67%	Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(499ers)
2016/1/12	70.14%	Marilyn & Darryl Bremner(Clinton invitational)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#125 – MANAGING THE ENTRIES

	♠ 42 ♥ J97 ♦ JT984 ♣ 872	
♠ 73 ♥ 532 ♦ Q532 ♣ QT94	North West East Declarer	♠KQJT865 ♥ 4 ♦ K76 ♣ J6
	♠ A9 ♥ AKQT86 ♦ A ♣ AK53	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	3♠
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

After East's 3♠ preempt, South couldn't see a scientific way of bidding his hand so he leapt majestically to 6♥, hoping that Dummy would have a few crumbs for him. After West leads a Spade, a mediocre Dummy appears, now how should Declarer play the hand?

The road to success requires setting up Dummy's Diamonds via two ruffing finesses, playing East to have one or both of

the missing Diamond honors. This line requires three entries to Dummy (two entries for the ruffing finesses, plus one to enjoy the proceeds), and those entries can only come from the trump suit.

That's the general idea, but the devil is in the details. For that line to work, Declarer will be sure to use high trumps for any Diamond ruffs. And Declarer must also pay careful attention to the Heart spots. If, for example, on the first round of trumps, he plays the Heart Six to Dummy's Jack then he can kiss the contract goodbye. It has to be the Six to the Seven, and so on.

With those caveats in mind, the play is simple enough. After winning the ♠A, Declarer cashes the ♦A, crosses to Dummy with a trump (say the Six to the Seven), runs the ♦J around to West's Queen (pitching a Spade), ruffs the Spade return high, and gets to Dummy with another trump. Another Diamond is led, East plays the King and Declarer ruffs (high, of course). Now it's over to Dummy with yet another trump, and the established Diamonds are enjoyed.

#126 – HERO OR ZERO

	♠ 75 ♥ A52 ♦ K72 ♣ AJT62	
♠ K3 ♥ KQT8 ♦ T986 ♣ 853	North West East Declarer	♠ T86 ♥ J643 ♦ QJ3 ♣ Q74
	♠ AQJ942 ♥ 97 ♦ A54 ♣ K9	

Both Vulnerable

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

4♠ is an iron-clad contract, and the play is simply a battle for overtricks. Not a big deal if you are playing rubber bridge, but in the world of duplicate bridge, overtricks are important. You are West, do something brilliant!

All the West players led the ♥K (nothing brilliant there), won by Dummy's Ace, after which it was a routine matter for

Declarer to lose the Spade finesse. West cashed a Heart, and Declarer won the Diamond shift in her hand. Trumps were drawn, then came the ♠K, the ♣A and the ♠J. When the ♣Q tumbled down, Declarer had 11 tricks.

The resulting -650 was the standard E-W score around the room, except at one table, where West did something wickedly clever. Yes, no doubt you spotted it right away, West ducked the ♠K on the first round of trumps! Of course, Declarer had no way of knowing that West now had the unprotected King, so she crossed to Dummy's ♦K and repeated the finesse. West won the King, cashed a Heart, and shifted to a Diamond and, although Declarer had made her contract, there were no overtricks and her score of +620 was worth zero matchpoints. That diabolical duck by West had persuaded Declarer to waste a valuable Dummy entry on a futile finesse.

However, West's play was not without risk, and he would hardly have been a hero if his Partner's trumps were, for example, Jx or JT_x. But, if that had turned out to be the case, then at least he would have had an amusing story to tell on himself later. And he could no doubt count on Partner's legendary sense of humor as they ruefully scored -680 and zero matchpoints.

#127 – CREATING AN ILLUSION

	♠ QJ2 ♥ KJT2 ♦ Q43 ♣ J63	
♠ 963 ♥ 74 ♦ KJ865 ♣ 984	North West East Declarer	♠ T85 ♥ A8653 ♦ A7 ♣ T72
	♠ AK74 ♥ Q9 ♦ T92 ♣ AKQ5	

E-W Vulnerable

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

In a rubber bridge or team game, this would be a pretty dull deal, with N-S making 10 or 11 tricks in about 30 seconds flat. But in a duplicate bridge game, where overtricks are well rewarded, this dull deal suddenly becomes most interesting!

When this deal was played, all the West players led a Diamond to East's Ace, and a Diamond was returned, South playing the Two on the first trick, followed by the Nine. The

West players knew that, if East had two remaining Diamonds, he would have returned the higher one at Trick 2. Therefore, Declarer had the missing Ten, and there was no point in ducking the second Diamond, he had to take his King while he still could. The defense won the ♥A later and it was just 10 tricks for Declarer.

But at one table Declarer created an illusion by playing the Diamond Nine and Ten on the first two tricks. Now West had a chance to go wrong as, in this case, the missing Diamond was the Two. In West's mind, unless Declarer was being diabolically devious (which we know to be the case!), the missing Two was surely with East. So West ducked the second Diamond and sat back, patiently waiting for East to get in and fire back a Diamond. He's still waiting, and it was 11 tricks (and a top board) for Declarer.

In the post mortem West apologized for not grabbing the ♦K while he could, but East could have saved the day. He could count Declarer for 18-19 HCP, leaving only 3-4 for West. That being so, West presumably had the ♦K and no entries, and the defense could never score the long Diamonds. So East must cash the ♥A at Trick 2, making it clear to one and all that the defense must take its three tricks and give up.

#128 – ESCHEWING THE FINESSE

	♠ A943 ♥ AQJ5 ♦ A54 ♣ KQ	
♠ Q86 ♥ 98 ♦ KQJ8 ♣ 9532	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ T2 ♥ T643 ♦ T632 ♣ 876
	♠ KJ75 ♥ K72 ♦ 97 ♣ AJT4	

Both Vulnerable

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

Your writer cannot recall seeing the word “eschew” other than in bridge books. Football players and golfers never eschew, nor do NASCAR drivers, but bridge players seem to do it all the time. Here, North charges into slam (eschewing Blackwood), now see how Declarer makes her contract.

6♠ is a fine place to be but, after the lead of the ♦K, Declarer is in danger of losing a Spade and a Diamond. Declarer could take the trump finesse now, and that is certainly the percentage play when looking only at the Spade suit. Of course, the danger is that, if the Spade finesse loses, Declarer will be down one in a hurry. Declarer can do better by combining her chances in two suits rather than staking everything on luck in the Spade suit.

The right plan is to eschew the Spade finesse and play the ♠A and ♠K. That will be an immediate success if someone has the doubleton Queen but, even if they don't, Declarer has a second string to her bow. Leaving the ♠Q at large, Declarer sets about pitching away Diamond losers. There are two choices ... cash the Hearts hoping for one Diamond pitch from hand ... or cash the Clubs hoping for two Diamond pitches from Dummy. Whichever suit is run, for the contract to make, the defender with the ♠Q must follow three times. Which suit is more likely to succeed?

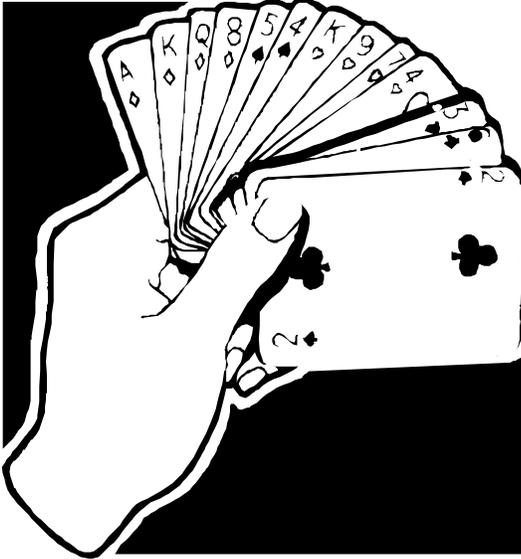
As the defenders have more Clubs than Hearts, running the Clubs is more likely to succeed. So Declarer wins the ♦A, cashes the ♠A and ♠K, and plays four rounds of Clubs (pitching Diamonds). Making 12 well-deserved tricks. Those Declarers who finessed in Spades, or who ran the Hearts, also get what they deserve, which is only 11 tricks.

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Upcoming tournaments:



STaC

Feb 6-12, 2017

East Peoria Tournament Sectional

Apr 7-9, 2017

Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center

201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

