



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 19 Number 4 – April, 2017

14 pages



April Events

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

April 3 – Charity Game open pairs April 10 – Charity Game open pairs

April 17 – Charity Game open pairs April 24 – Charity Game open pairs

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

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, April 1, 11:45AM – Charity Game open pairs - Centennial Christian

Monday, April 3, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 5, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 6, 11:45AM – Charity Game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 8, NO GAME – EAST PEORIA TOURNAMENT

Monday, April 10, 6:15PM - 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, April 11, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, April 12, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 13, 11:45AM – Charity Game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 15, 11:45AM – Charity Game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 17, 6:15PM - 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, April 19, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 20, 11:45AM – Charity Game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 22, 11:45AM – Charity Game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, April 24, 6:15PM - 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, April 25, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, April 26, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, April 27, 11:45AM – ACBL-wide Charity Game #1 open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, April 29, 11:45AM – Charity Game 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: <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 3/6/2017 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 3,716.26 Betty Capodice
- 2 3,573.13 Steve Babin
- 3 2,765.57 Zack Freehill
- 4 2,612.96 Eunice Patton
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 5 2,125.36 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 1,979.91 Cindy Moore
- 7 1,943.86 JoAnn Schroeder
- 8 1,763.13 Ann Schuyler
- *** 1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 9 1,635.23 Dewey Gronau
- 10 1,458.26 Lori Moore
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- 11 1,381.31 Ron Emmett
- 12 1,340.08 Charlie Morton
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 13 1,263.31 Stan Gutzman
- 14 1,213.02 Jeanne Strand
- 15 1,152.35 Ivey Weaver
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 16 1,045.75 Jean Barnett
- 17 989.11 Randall Motchan
- 18 947.21 Jeff Furler
- *** 835.37 Glen Beaman
- 19 813.55 Steve Wulfers
- 20 797.62 Henrietta Crain
- *** 792.95 Don Strand
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- 21 766.07 Dennis Moll
- 22 753.91 Joyce Clay
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 23 722.53 Dave Freehill
- 24 699.99 Peg Deutsch
- 25 621.79 Stevie Joslin
- *** deceased

Other players:

- *** 12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 12,325.72 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,904.85 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,775.30 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- 4,171.78 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- *** 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,025.08 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 4,006.06 Christine Carroll-Champaign
- 3,856.59 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 3,830.90 Jim Carbaugh-Metamora
- 3,014.18 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,679.85 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,635.38 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,560.40 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,549.64 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,536.36 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,448.48 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,417.13 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 2,398.51 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 1,996.83 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,867.05 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,837.66 Tim Cull-Arizona
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,745.20 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,538.60 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,281.51 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 1,089.79 Chuck Langley-Mechanicsburg
- 1,051.65 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 1,034.88 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- *** 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 648.09 Wes Seitz-Champaign



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#1 –

While some hands have several possible roads to success, others offer only one.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-34	♠ K103	West	North	East	South
Vul E/W	♥ A9765	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
	♦ AK108	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	♣ K	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
♠ AJ52	□	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 10843					
♦ Q653					
♣ J					
	♠ Q874				
	♥ QJ				
	♦ 72				
	♣ Q10984				
	♠ 96				
	♥ K2				
	♦ J94				
	♣ A76532				

BIDDING: South's 1NT response was forcing for one round. Over two diamonds, South took a preference to two hearts showing 2-card support and 6-9 high card points. With extras, North continued with 2NT to show 16-17 points and South bid game.

Play: West led a low spade that was ducked to the queen. Declarer won the third round of spades discarding a club from his hand. Declarer counted seven tricks: 1 spade, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 2 clubs. To find two more tricks it was clear the queen of diamonds had to be in the West hand. Declarer unblocked the king of clubs and then came to his hand with a heart to the king. Next, he led the nine of diamonds and was pleased when it won. He cashed his ace of clubs followed by the jack of diamonds and had nine tricks and a great score.

Note it was important to first unblock the king of clubs and then not strand the ace of clubs in his hand.

#2 -

While some squeeze plays are complex, others simply require you to play your winning tricks.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-35	♠ J1063	West	North	East	South
Vul E/W	♥ Q97	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
	♦ A108	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
	♣ Q87	Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
♠ 987	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass			
♥ 2		Pass			
♦ 9654					
♣ 106543					
	♠ AKQ4				
	♥ AK65				
	♦ KQJ2				
	♣ A				

BIDDING: North's two diamond response was game forcing showing values but no strong suit. South's 3NT showed a balanced or semi-balanced hand with 25-27 high card points. Holding 9 high card points, North did the math and bid the slam.

Play: West led the nine of spades and declarer counted twelve tricks: 4 spades, 3 hearts, 4 diamonds, and 1 club. At first glance it appeared the overtrick was possible only if the hearts divided 3-3. However, declarer saw that if the opponent with heart length also held the king of clubs, he could be squeezed. Declarer won the spade, cashed four diamonds and the ace of clubs, and then started on the spades. Here was the ending before the last spade was played.




Declarer led his small spade to dummy and East had no answer. He finally discarded a heart and declarer had the overtrick.

#3 –

Entries to dummy can be plentiful and they can be scarce. Sometimes you even have to create them.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#16-36	♠ Q8652	West	North	East	South
Vul N/S	♥ 85	-	Pass	Pass	1♥
	♦ A98	2♦	DBL	Pass	4♥
	♣ Q65	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ K3					
♥ 107					
♦ KQ7653					
♣ A107					
	♠ J1097				
	♥ J2				
	♦ 10				
	♣ J98432				
	♠ A4				
	♥ AKQ9643				
	♦ J42				
	♣ K				

BIDDING: After West's two diamond overcall, North made a negative double to show 4+ spades and some values. That was all South needed to hear and he jumped to the heart game.

Play: West led the king of diamonds and declarer won the ace noting the ten dropping on his right. Analyzing the hand, it seemed likely the king of spades and the ace of clubs were in the West hand. Assuming the hearts were not 4-0, he saw a loser in each of the other suits. He could discard the spade loser on the queen of clubs but needed an entry to dummy. He saw the solution was to unblock the jack of diamonds on the first trick. Next he drew trumps followed by the king of clubs. West won the ace but had no good exit. Reluctantly, he cashed the queen of diamonds followed by a third round to dummy's nine. The spade loser was discarded on the queen of clubs and declarer had the overtrick and a good score.

West erred by leading the king of diamonds at trick one. A trump lead would have been much safer. Note that it was necessary to get the jack of diamonds out of the way to ensure the entry to dummy.

#4 –

Your goals in a pairs event scored with matchpoints may be different than those you employ in a team game or at Rubber Bridge. When defending in a team game your goal is usually to defeat the contract. In a pairs game, you want to minimize all minus scores.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

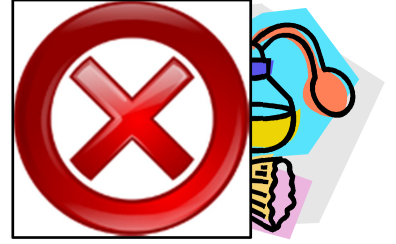
#16-37	♠ Q96		West	North	East	South
Vul N/S	♥ AQ6		Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
	♦ Q106		Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
	♣ 10874		Pass			
♠ KJ83	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♠ 10752				
♥ K54		♥ 1072				
♦ 9874		♦ J53				
♣ 95		♣ Q32				
	♠ A4					
	♥ J983					
	♦ AK2					
	♣ AKJ6					

BIDDING: South's 2NT showed a balanced hand with 20-21 high card points and North had an easy raise to game.

Play: In a team game West might choose the aggressive lead a low spade as his best chance to defeat the contract. However, leading from two honors into a hand that opened 2NT could very likely give up an overtrick. Instead, in this pairs game West made the safer lead of the nine of diamonds. Declarer ended with 11 tricks: 1 spade, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 4 clubs. Those declarers who received a spade lead captured 12 tricks.

It's important to realize Matchpoint Bridge is a different game and must be approached with the scoring in mind.

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!!



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Years 2016-2017 only
Sponsored by: TBA**

2017/3/27	75.69%	Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(99ers)
2017/2/8	73.81%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2017/2/1	70.24%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2016/11/2	71.53%	Tom Teeters & Steve Wulfers
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)

YOUTH BRIDGE CAMP!

This is a seven-day summer sleepaway camp that includes bridge lessons and tournaments, as well as indoor and outdoor recreational activities for youth players (entering grades 6-10) of all experience levels. For the first 50 applicants, the cost is just \$410!



This is what 2016's attendees had to say about Youth Bridge Camp:

"It was really fun, and the tournaments were great."

"It's awesome!"

"Go, Go, Go! It's one of the best experiences I've ever had!"

"Great but exhausting."

"It was a lot of fun and I learned a lot."

"10/10"

"It's cool because you make friends and have fun"

"It was a ton of fun and I am definitely coming back each year until I age out!"

"I loved it!"

"It's fun, great people and awesome."

"It's really fun and it's cool to meet new people and learn to play bridge."

"Coolio!"

"One of my favorite experiences yet."

"You will learn a lot in bridge camp. There is a lake and 9 square, tennis, also blacklight dodgeball. You play in a tournament every night."

"We have lots of fun!"

"Amazing!"

"It is a great and fun place to play and learn bridge."

"Really fun! I love it!"

"I thought it was a fun experience."

"You will meet some of the greatest friends you will ever have."

"I would recommend it."

"It's a fun game and it includes sportsmanship."

"It's great but don't expect anything; it won't be like what you expect."

"It was amazing. I loved all the counselors and all the campers."

"It's a blast! Do it!"

"I'd tell them about what I've learned and how much fun I had."

"It was a great experience and really fun."

"It was super great; I'm loving it!"

"Go, it's awesome even if you don't know how to play bridge!"

"It's an amazing camp with great people."

"It is really fun and interesting."

"I loved it, and I can't wait for next year!"

"Hey, you should go to bridge camp! It's really fun and you learn a lot!"



The ninth annual Youth Bridge Camp will be held June 25-July 1, 2017 at Lake Williamson in Illinois; contact Steve and Amy at streiss@earthlink.net or 314-481-1838 for more information!

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#141 – BACKING THE FAVORITE

	♠ Q4 ♥ K7 ♦ QJ7 ♣ KJT852	
♠ 5 ♥ 832 ♦ 986432 ♣ Q76	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ J9876 ♥ T654 ♦ A ♣ 943
	♠ AKT32 ♥ AQJ9 ♦ KT5 ♣ A	

Both Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

South wastes little time in reaching 6NT, West leads the Diamond Nine and, when Dummy goes down, Declarer can see just 11 top tricks. How would you go about getting the 12th trick?

One possibility is that one or other of the defenders has the doubleton ♣Q. If that doesn't work then you will have to fall

back on the Spades, and that's a suit which offers you a choice ... either play the Spades from the top, hoping that the Jack comes down in three rounds ... or cash the Queen and finesse the Ten. If you look at the Spade suit in isolation, it's a close call as to which line is better (playing for the drop is a slight favorite). But, as the play of the hand develops, watch how the odds change.

East wins that opening Diamond and a Heart is returned. You cash the remaining Hearts, then the ♣A, ♦K, ♦Q, and ♣K. The ♣Q does not fall on the play of the Clubs, so now it all comes down to the Spade suit. Is playing for the drop of the Jack still the slight favorite? Not at all! East showed up with one Diamond and four Hearts, and pitched a Spade and a Club when you played the Diamonds. That means he must have started out with three or four Clubs, so his original distribution must have been 5=4=1=3 or 4=4=1=4, there are no other possibilities. What does that tell us? That East started with more Spades than West and is therefore more likely to have the Jack. So the percentage pendulum has swung in favor of taking the Spade finesse. 12 tricks for those who did a little counting.

#142 – A MATTER OF ENTRIES

	♠ Q ♥ QJT95 ♦ A642 ♣ 865	
♠ KT9543 ♥ 862 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ2	North West East Declarer	♠ 876 ♥ K74 ♦ QJT8 ♣ Q74
	♠ AJ2 ♥ A3 ♦ K753 ♣ AT93	

N-S Vulnerable

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

West's frisky 2♠ overcall is brushed aside and South becomes Declarer in 3NT. West leads the Spade Ten, won in Dummy. There's a trap for the unwary on this deal, and today's Declarer fell right into it. But our readers won't, will they?

Dummy's ♠Q won the opening lead and Declarer could see that it was plain sailing to at least nine tricks, his minimum haul being two Spades, four Hearts, two Diamonds and a Club. Never one to turn up his nose at an overtrick or two, Declarer ran the ♥Q at Trick 2. It seemed like good news when that finesse won, but in fact Declarer had just bungled the contract. He crossed to the ♥A and, when the King did not fall he needed two entries to the board, one to knock out the ♥K, the other to enjoy the established Hearts. Alas, he had only one such entry, and was destined for an ignominious down two. Yes, the winning line was simple enough, Declarer must play the ♥A at Trick 2, then a low Heart to the board.

Now, let's replay the hand with the Heart King and Eight exchanged between the E-W hands. Let's say that, as before, Declarer goofs mightily by running the ♥Q at Trick 2. West must duck the trick! If West makes the mistake of grabbing his King then Declarer's misplay will go unpunished.

#143 – STRANGER THAN FICTION

	♠ A ♥ KQ42 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AJT32	
♠ KQT954 ♥ J5 ♦ 765 ♣ KQ	North West East Declarer	♠ 32 ♥ 9873 ♦ T ♣ 987654
	♠ J876 ♥ AT6 ♦ KQ9842 ♣	

Both Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
		1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Yes, it is true, some newspaper hands are works of fiction, and never actually happened. Others are factual re-enactments. Which is this? It has to have happened in real life, we really couldn't make this stuff up.

The N-S auction went off the rails, thanks to conflicting views as to the meaning of the 3♠ and 4♥ bids. So, while the other N-S pairs were luxuriating in their comfy Diamond slam and its 9-card fit, our South was laboring in the 4-3 Heart slam. West led the ♠K, won in Dummy. Declarer reasoned that, with Spade length on her left, East might well have four Hearts. With unerring inaccuracy, she finessed the Heart Ten, losing to West's Jack, after which West could have beaten the contract by leading the ♠Q, setting up a trump trick for East. But West did not know that Declarer started with only three Hearts (though Declarer's Heart play might have made him suspicious). So, after winning the ♥J, West got out with a trump.

Now what? Declarer could have prayed for 3-3 Hearts, hoping to scoot home with the aid of a Club ruff. But where was the fun in that, especially when there was the chance for a delicious swindle? Instead of taking the Club ruff, Declarer drew trumps and, leaving the ♣A an orphan in Dummy, she rattled off her Diamonds. Grimly holding on to the ♣KQ, West pitched away all his Spades, hoping that East held the ♠J. Thus was Declarer's foolish contract fulfilled, with the Spade Jack and Eight taking the last two tricks and Dummy's ♠A acting as no more than a decoy. Stranger than fiction, indeed.

#144 – NICE LEAD, PARTNER!

	♠ AK865 ♥ A6 ♦ 9753 ♣ 53	
♠ J43 ♥ QJT87 ♦ QJ ♣ KT8	North West East Declarer	♠ ♥ 54 ♦ KT8642 ♣ AJ642
	♠ QT972 ♥ K932 ♦ A ♣ Q97	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	5♠	All Pass

There are other ways to bid the North hand, but our North was obviously a paid-up member of the Bid-What-You-Think-You-Can-Make Club. East's 4NT showed the minors, then North pushed on to 5♠, in this case bidding what he *hoped* they could make.

As West, what would be your choice of opening lead? Outside of the trump suit, Declarer does not appear to have

an obvious source of tricks. West has the Hearts under control and East has long minors so, with no side-suits that can be set up, it's reasonable to assume that Declarer will be relying on ruffs to bolster his trick total. That's right, an opening trump lead seems to be called for.

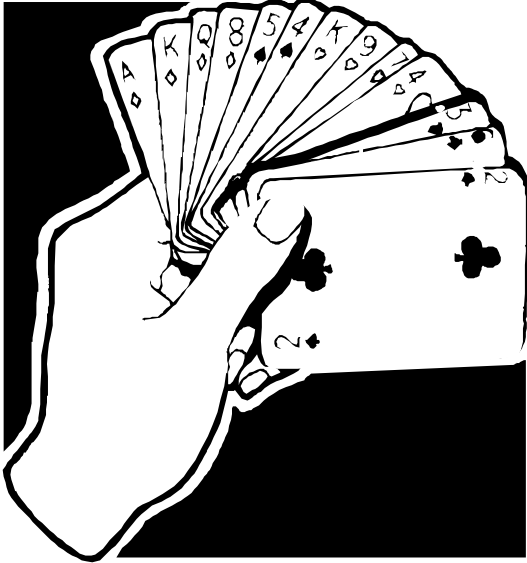
Over to Declarer. He can count five natural trump tricks, plus the ♥AK and ♦A. That's eight tricks and, to get to eleven, he needs three ruffs in one hand or the other. Of course, the trump lead and the 3-0 split put a dent in those hopes, but Declarer is not done yet. Ruffing three Diamonds in hand won't work, that will run into an overruff by West. So Declarer's plan is to ruff two Hearts and a Club in Dummy.

The opening trump lead is won in Dummy, and that is followed by ♥A, ♥K, and a Heart ruff. Now a Club is led from Dummy, East ducks and Declarer's Queen is taken by the King. Back comes another trump, won in hand by Declarer, who next ruffs his last Heart in Dummy. A second Club is led and, again, East must duck, hoping that West has the Ten, and can continue with another trump. East reasons that Declarer probably does not have the Ten (if he did, he would surely have finessed it on the first round), so she boldly ducks. West wins his Ten, and the third round of trumps is the one that dashes Declarer's hopes.

"Nice lead, Partner!"

"Nice Club ducks, Partner!"

Upcoming tournaments:



East Peoria Tournament Sectional

Apr 7-9, 2017

Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center

201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

GNT District Final

May 6-7, 2017

Rochester IL Community Library

1 Community Dr., Rochester, IL 62563

PH: 217-498-8454

