



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 3 – March, 2019

14 pages



March Events

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

March 4 – mentor pairs

March 11 – open pairs March 18 – open pairs

March 25 – open pairs

Contact Ann Schuyler at 309-826-9791/309-663-4052 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule – ALL games at Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St, Bloomington, unless otherwise noted:

Saturday, March 2, 11:45AM – open pairs

Monday, March 4, 6:15PM – club championship 99ers only pairs

Wednesday, March 6, 1:15PM – club championship 499ers only pairs

Thursday, March 7, 11:45AM – club championship open pairs

Saturday, March 9, 11:45AM – club championship open pairs

Monday, March 11, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

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

Wednesday, March 13, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, March 14, 11:45AM – open pairs

Saturday, March 16, 11:45AM – open pairs

Monday, March 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Wednesday, March 20, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, March 21, 11:45AM – ACBL education fund open pairs

Saturday, March 23, 11:45AM – ACBL education fund open pairs

Monday, March 25, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Tuesday, March 26, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, March 27, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, March 28, 11:45AM – open pairs

Saturday, March 30, 11:45AM – open pairs

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 2/6/2019 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	3,946.58	Steve Babin
2	3,729.55	Betty Capodice
3	3,246.20	Zack Freehill
4	3,024.48	Eunice Patton
5	2,663.73	JoAnn Schroeder
6	2,511.84	Cindy Moore
7	2,221.06	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,142.23	Ann Schuyler
9	1,888.09	Lori Moore
10	1,715.66	Ron Emmett
11	1,677.85	Dewey Gronau
12	1,538.75	Charlie Morton
13	1,470.84	Jeff Furler
14	1,253.54	Jeanne Strand
15	1,161.30	Ivey Weaver
16	1,110.93	Joyce Clay
17	1,045.75	Jean Barnett
18	994.16	Randall Motchan
19	989.21	Steve Wulfers
20	808.11	Dave Freehill
21	797.02	Henrietta Crain
22	587.14	Ray Dostal
23	581.66	Sallie Boge
24	472.98	Mary Cralley
25	465.81	Mary Tweedie

Other players:

12,666.52	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,223.10	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,172.92	John Seng-Champaign
4,777.19	Ron Sholes-Springfield
4,199.85	Christine Carroll-Champaign
4,026.74	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
3,429.95	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
3,337.24	Doug Moore-St Louis
3,047.62	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,032.93	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,017.93	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
2,637.83	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,588.73	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,561.15	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,492.90	Gail Moon-Tennessee
2,312.73	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,150.66	John Maloney-Champaign
1,892.85	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,817.17	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,328.73	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,325.93	Jim Moon-Tennessee
1,269.31	Dan Bunde-Champaign
935.89	Wes Seitz-Champaign
740.99	Carole Miller-Champaign
731.60	Bill Strauss-Urbana
573.88	Melda Richardson-California
566.35	Lane O'Connor-Lisle
560.87	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
551.22	Bill Thompson-Champaign



District 8's Grand National Team Event

Organize your team now and plan to join in for great bridge competition! Win your flight, receive a minimum travel stipend of \$1000 per team and represent District 8 in the National Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada this July 2019! It doesn't get any better than this!

The District 8 event will be held on May 4 – 5, 2019 in Sherman IL (just north of Springfield.) The event will be held in the United Community Bank's Community Building, just west of the bank. The address is 121 Illini Blvd, Sherman Il. (Off I-55, take exit 105.)

All ACBL players in good-standing are eligible to enter and flights are as follows:

<u>FLIGHT</u>	<u>MASTERPOINTS*</u>	<u>CONVENTION CHART ALLOWED</u>
Championship	(Open)	Open
Flight A	(<6000 MPs)	Open
Flight B	(<2500 MPs)	Basic +
Flight C	(NLM & <500)	Basic

*Masterpoints are per individual player, and are as printed in the September 2018 Bulletin.

Start times will be 1:00 pm and TBA on Saturday and 10:30 am and TBA on Sunday. All teams will play a minimum of two sessions, more if attendance warrants. Cost is \$52 per session per team.

Flights A and B: Play will begin on Saturday and the length of the event will depend upon number of teams entered. The event could end on Saturday, or play Saturday with qualifying players playing on through Sunday.

Flights Open and C: Play will begin and end on Sunday.

To play, you need to select a team captain, and **pre-register** your team (4- 6 players) before the final **deadline of April 29, 2019**. Call or text player names to GNT coordinator Carole Sholes at 217-622-1955. (Players are allowed to compete in two different flights, as schedules and masterpoints allow. If your team decides to enter a second event on Sunday, no pre-registration is required for the second event.) Conditions of Contest are located on line at ACBL for review.

Note: Central Illinois tournaments support a fragrance-free environment for the comfort of all players. Your cooperation is appreciated.

#2 –

Minor suit slams can be difficult to bid. There is natural reluctance to go past 3NT which is often the best contract in a pairs game. Also, many pairs lack the tools to investigate the minor suits.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 18-23	♠ K6	-	-	Pass	Pass
	♥ AK3	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Vul N/S	♦ Q753	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
	♣ AKJ4	Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
♠ 10954	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass			
♥ J987					
♦ J1092					
♣ 8					
	♠ A87				
	♥ 2				
	♦ A86				
	♣ Q109765				

Bidding: North's 2NT bid showed a balanced hand with 20-21 high card points. South's bid of 3S was a relay to 3NT setting the stage for a slam try in a minor. The 4C rebid showed a 6+card club suit with slam interest. North bid the small slam and since South was a passed hand, did not try for the grand. With no fit, North would have signed off in 4NT.

Play: West led the jack of diamonds and South soon claimed twelve tricks. He won the ace of diamonds, drew trumps, played the AK of hearts to discard a diamond, and ruffed his third spade in dummy. He lost only one diamond.

At other tables, most stopped in 3NT but several reached 6NT and found only eleven tricks.

Counting an opponent's distribution can be difficult, but often this information is available if you look for it.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 18-24	♠ J862	West	North	East	South
	♥ 10	-	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Vul E/W	♦ 1062	2 ♣	3 ♣	4 ♥	4 ♣
	♣ A9743	5 ♦	5 ♠	DBL	Pass
		Pass	Pass		

♠ A		♠ Q93
♥ AJ982	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥ KQ63
♦ KQJ873		♦ 95
♣ K		♣ 10865


♠ K10754
♥ 754
♦ A4
♣ QJ2

Bidding: West's 2S bid was a Michael's cue bid showing hearts and a minor. North competed, East showed some strength, and South continued to make it difficult for E/W. Next, West bid his minor to help his partner in the auction. North bid spades one more time and, holding a minimum, East doubled to discourage his partner from bidding more.

Play: West led the ace of spades, cashed the ace of hearts, and then led the king of diamonds. Declarer ducked this trick but won the second diamond. Declarer tried to find out more about the distribution, so he ruffed a heart in dummy and then led a spade to his ten. Next, he ruffed his last heart in dummy and then a diamond in his hand as East showed out. He pulled the last trump and had a good count of West's hand. From the auction and the play, declarer knew that West had started with 1 spade, 5-6 hearts, and 6 diamonds. This meant he started with at most one club. He led the deuce from his hand and was pleased when the king came up from West. He lost 1 spade, 1 heart, and 1 diamond for down one and -100. Most E/W pairs were allowed to play heart contracts scoring +650.

When playing a pairs game, it is sometimes reasonable to risk the contract for an overtrick. However, in a team game the safety of the contract is paramount.

Scoring: Imps (Teams)

Hand 18-25	♠ A743	West	North	East	South
	♥ 6532	-	Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul N/S	♦ Q52	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
	♣ K8	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
♠ J1082		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ K74					
♦ K43					
♣ 1032					
	♠ Q96				
	♥ A8				
	♦ AJ1096				
	♣ AQ9				
	♠ K5				
	♥ QJ109				
	♦ 87				
	♣ J7654				

Bidding: After failing to find a major suit fit, North invited game and South accepted.

Play: West led the jack of spades, and eager for a second spade trick, declarer played low from dummy. East won the king and seeing very little reason to continue spades, shifted to the queen of hearts. Declarer won the second round and led a club to dummy to take the diamond finesse. West won the king and led another heart. The contract was defeated losing 1 spade, 3 hearts, and 1 diamond.

At the other table in this team game, declarer saw the threat of a heart shift and won the ace of spades. The diamond finesse lost to West but declarer now had 9 tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, and 3 clubs. Plus 600 and +100 meant a swing of 12 Imps to this team.

The first declarer's play would be correct in a pairs game scored by matchpoints. Ducking the first spade would assure a second spade trick and West might have led from the KJ10X. Also, if the spade did lose to the king, the defense now had to find a heart shift and the diamond finesse had to lose. That was enough reason to risk the contract.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2018 & 2019 only

2019/2/9	73.21%	Lori Moore & Chuck Young
2019/1/7	72.50%	Doug Lamb & Bob Bray (99ers)
2019/1/2	73.02%	Larry Ziegler & John Ford (499ers)
2018/12/17	75.43%	Lori Moore & Ann Schuyler
2018/11/28	70.47%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2018/11/26	75.00%	Ron Calabrese & Rick Dalton(99ers)
2018/10/29	73.15%	Bev Branning & Bob Bray(99ers)
2018/10/31	72.22%	Cindy Moore & Jeff Furler
2018/10/29	70.14%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye(99ers)
2018/10/11	73.21%	Linda Odette & Zach Freehill
2018/10/10	73.21%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2018/9/17	72.22%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye(99ers)
2018/8/28	74.55%	Lori & Cindy Moore(Illinois Senior Olympics)
2018/8/20	74.07%	Doug Lamb & Joe Culpepper(99ers)
2018/8/6	76.39%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye(99ers)
2018/7/30	70.37%	Larry Ziegler & Terry Goodykoontz
2018/7/25	71.43%	John Ford & John Cralley(499ers)
2018/7/23	76.25%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye(99ers)
2018/6/2	70.00%	Cindy Moore & Zach Freehill
2018/5/7	70.34%	Cindy Lake & Eunice Patton
2018/4/18	70.48%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2018/4/9	70.37%	Doug Lamb & Joe Culpepper(99ers)
2018/3/17	72.22%	Ron Emmett & Paul Lindauer
2018/2/26	78.08%	Bob Bray & Larry Ziegler(99ers)
2018/1/24	70.24%	John Ford & Ray Dostal(499ers)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#077 – A SITTING DUCK

	♠ K3 ♥ 6 ♦ AQ853 ♣ QJT98	
♠ QJ9852 ♥ 82 ♦ 972 ♣ 76	North West East Declarer	♠ ♥ KQJ754 ♦ KJ4 ♣ A542
	♠ AT764 ♥ AT93 ♦ T6 ♣ K3	

N-S Vulnerable

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

N-S are a little shy of the 25 or so HCP generally required to make 3NT. On the other hand, they do have a source of tricks in Clubs which gets Declarer up to eight winners. And where there are eight there's often a 9th, as East is about to find out to his detriment.

West dutifully leads his partner's Heart suit and the Jack is taken by Declarer's Ace (holding up won't achieve anything).

The ♠K comes next and East wins his Ace. At this point East can count (at least) eight tricks for Declarer, namely two Spades (because surely Declarer has the Ace), one Heart, one Diamond and four Clubs. East can also deduce that Declarer started with ♥AT9x, because West's opening lead from ♥Tx would be the Ten and from ♥Txx would be a low one. That being the case, it's clear that persisting with Hearts will merely serve to set up Declarer's game-going trick. A Diamond is no better, of course, so East does the best he can by exiting safely with a Club. A nice try, but it just delays the inevitable.

On the run of the Clubs Declarer pitches two Spades and a Diamond, and then cashes the ♠K followed by the ♠A. With East known to have the missing Heart honors and nothing left but red cards, he is a sitting duck for an end-play. Declarer simply exits with the ♥T and sits back smugly while East chooses whether to surrender the 9th trick in Hearts or in Diamonds.

#078 – THE GRIFFINS CLUB

	♠ Q32 ♥ QJ2 ♦ AJ654 ♣ 43	
♠ 6 ♥ T986 ♦ QT98 ♣ KJ86	North West RR Declarer	♠ 54 ♥ K7543 ♦ 7 ♣ QT975
	♠ AKJT987 ♥ A ♦ K32 ♣ A2	

If you are looking for a hilarious bridge read, try the *Bridge in the Menagerie* series, written by the late Victor Mollo. The setting is the Griffins bridge club, and the protagonists are named for animals whose characteristics they exhibit. Our favorites are the hopeless (but amazingly lucky) Rueful Rabbit (RR) and the insufferably brilliant, claret-swilling Hideous Hog.

The contract is an ambitious 7♠. West leads the ♥T, and a devious Declarer plays the Queen from Dummy, hoping to tempt East into covering. But East plays low, knowing that West would not underlead an Ace against a grand slam. Declarer's Ace wins the trick and trumps are drawn. Next,

Declarer cashes the ♦K, finesses the ♦J, cashes the ♦A and ruffs a Diamond. The ♠Q provides an entry to the long Diamond and that's 13 tricks for Declarer. Routine stuff, eh?

That may be the normal way to play and defend, but RR doesn't do normal. To spare himself the chore of thinking (which he finds quite difficult) he lives by certain rules ... third hand high ... cover an honor with an honor ... and many others. So, at Trick 1, RR *does* cover the ♥Q, gleefully following two rules at one fell swoop! This "mistake" gives Declarer an option. Now, instead of relying on the 50% Diamond finesse, he can triumph whenever Diamonds are 3-2 (a 68% chance) ... draw trumps, cash the ♦K, cross to the ♦A, pitch a Diamond on the Rabbit-created Heart winner, and ruff a Diamond. But, alas for Declarer, this fails when Diamonds are 4-1 and he goes down in his cold grand. RR strikes again!

If the Hog had been sitting East he also would have covered with the ♥K at Trick 1. But in his case the Hog would (somehow) have divined that it was the winning play and we can still hear him chortling in between celebratory gulps of Chateau Margaux 94 (perhaps some of them even from his own glass).

#079 – THE ONLY CHANCE

	♠ QJ76 ♥ 872 ♦ 964 ♣ K32	
♠ A ♥ J3 ♦ AKJT5 ♣ T8754	North West East Declarer	♠ 42 ♥ QT964 ♦ Q87 ♣ QJ9
	♠ KT9853 ♥ AK5 ♦ 32 ♣ A6	

N-S Vulnerable

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

The defense starts with Diamonds and Declarer ruffs the third round. Declarer has lost two tricks already, must later lose the ♠A, and appears to have an inescapable Heart loser. Down one? Or perhaps there is a way to escape that Heart loser after all?

Declarer makes her contract by “stripping the hand”. After ruffing the Diamond, she cashes the ♣A, then the ♠K, and ruffs a Club. Then she cashes the ♥A and ♥K and plays a trump. Her hope is that West started with the singleton Ace of trumps in which case there will be no safe exit. Whichever minor suit West chooses to lead, Declarer will be able to ruff in one hand and pitch the “inescapable” Heart loser from the other hand.

A bouquet for Declarer, who did well to grab the only chance she had to make her contract. But a brickbat to West who apparently was fast asleep during the entire proceedings. He walked straight into that end-play and could have avoided it by cashing the trump Ace at Trick 2, before persisting with Diamonds. After that defense there really would be no way to avoid a Heart loser.

#080 – NERVES OF STEEL

	♠ AK76 ♥ QJ ♦ J64 ♣ QT76	
♠ 932 ♥ T8754 ♦ 75 ♣ K43	North West East Declarer	♠ 54 ♥ K93 ♦ AKT98 ♣ J92
	♠ QJT8 ♥ A62 ♦ Q32 ♣ A85	

Both Vulnerable

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

4♠ is a miserable contract, and clearly has no chance after the defense cashes two Diamonds and gets a Diamond ruff. E-W will be happy to go plus, but naturally they would prefer down two to down one. You are West, your nerve is about to be tested.

After getting your Diamond ruff, you exit safely with a trump. Dummy's ♠A wins that, the ♥Q is run around successfully,

the ♠K is cashed, then the ♥J is covered by the King and Ace. Next is a Heart ruff and a Club to Declarer's Ace. Have you been busily counting the distribution, Mr. West? Of course you have! By now it is clear that Declarer was dealt four Spades (as East followed twice), and three Hearts (as East also showed up with three), and three Diamonds (from the bidding and the play). That means that Declarer started life with three Clubs, no more, no less.

You see where this is headed, don't you? Declarer now leads a low Club, and you resist the temptation to grab the ♠K for the setting trick. Instead, with an air of nonchalance, you play low, after which it is a pretty safe bet that Declarer will guess to finesse the Ten, losing to East's Jack. Down two!

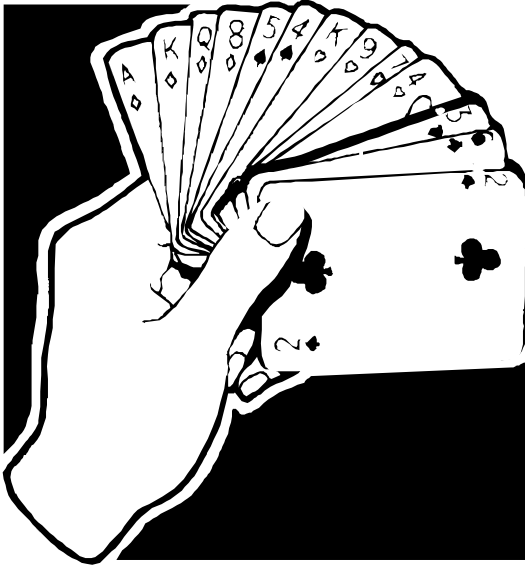
It didn't really take nerves of steel to duck the ♠K, all that was required was some counting as the play unfolded. That would have reassured West that Declarer started with three Clubs and not a doubleton, and that the ♠K was sure to score a trick sooner or later.

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!!

Upcoming tournaments:



District 8 GNT

May 4-5, 2019

United Community Bank Community Center
120 Illini Blvd., Sherman, IL 62684

STaC

May 6-12, 2019

Illini Regional

May 21-27, 2019

Hawthorn Suites/Holiday Inn
101 Trade Center Dr, Champaign, IL 61821

