



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 4 – April, 2019

14 pages



April Events

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

April 1 – mentor pairs

April 8 – open pairs

April 22 – open pairs

April 15 – open pairs

April 29 – 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:

Monday, April 1, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Wednesday, April 3, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, April 4, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Saturday, April 6, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Monday, April 8, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Tuesday, April 9, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, April 10, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, April 11, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Saturday, April 13, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

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

Wednesday, April 17, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, April 18, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Saturday, April 20, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Monday, April 22, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Tuesday, April 23, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, April 24, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, April 25, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Saturday, April 27, 11:45AM – Charity club championship open pairs

Monday, April 29, 6:15PM – 99ers only 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 4/6/2019 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only**



1	3,951.56	Steve Babin
2	3,729.55	Betty Capodice
3	3,253.86	Zack Freehill
4	3,031.64	Eunice Patton
5	2,682.73	JoAnn Schroeder
6	2,522.04	Cindy Moore
7	2,221.47	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,143.31	Ann Schuyler
9	1,896.38	Lori Moore
10	1,722.66	Ron Emmett
11	1,540.05	Charlie Morton
12	1,477.65	Jeff Furler
13	1,255.87	Jeanne Strand
14	1,161.30	Ivey Weaver
15	1,116.40	Joyce Clay
16	1,045.75	Jean Barnett
17	994.16	Randall Motchan
18	990.19	Steve Wulfers
19	809.09	Dave Freehill
20	797.02	Henrietta Crain
21	588.98	Ray Dostal
22	581.66	Sallie Boge
23	472.98	Mary Cralley
24	468.37	Mary Tweedie
25	450.19	Fred Spitzerrie

Other players:

12,676.70	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,232.93	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,175.43	John Seng-Champaign
4,795.01	Ron Sholes-Springfield
4,207.71	Christine Carroll-Champaign
4,030.71	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
3,443.74	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
3,340.53	Doug Moore-St Louis
3,062.24	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
3,052.11	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,040.02	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,641.37	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,590.47	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,561.15	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,492.90	Gail Moon-Tennessee
2,320.67	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,197.16	John Maloney-Champaign
1,895.86	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,821.75	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,335.83	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,325.93	Jim Moon-Tennessee
1,269.31	Dan Bunde-Champaign
947.35	Wes Seitz-Champaign
744.34	Carole Miller-Champaign
734.49	Bill Strauss-Urbana
577.30	Melda Richardson-California
567.54	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
567.25	Lane O'Connor-Lisle
556.06	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.

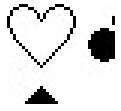
Start times will be 1:00 pm and TBA on Saturday and 10:30 am and TBA on Sunday. All teams will play a minimum of two sessions, more if attendance warrants. Cost is \$52 per session per team.

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.



Bloomington-Normal STaC Week



Spring, 2019



Monday, 5/6, 11:45AM – Bloomington-Normal Duplicate – First Christian

Monday, 5/6, 6:15PM – Mike's 99ers only & open pairs – Centennial

**Wednesday, 5/8, 1:15PM – Mike's NLMers only & open pairs –
Centennial Christian**

Thursday, 5/9, 11:45AM – Mike's open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, 5/11, 12:01PM–Mike's open pairs – Centennial Christian

Sunday, 5/12, 1:15PM – Mike's open pairs – Centennial Christian

All games sanctioned by ACBL district 8. A portion of the STaC sanction fee is paid by the unit 208 board of directors – Eunice Patton is the director representing McLean, Woodford, Livingston, LaSalle, & Grundy counties.



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#1 –

When players take up this game, one of the first rules they learn is to return your partner's lead. While this is often the right thing to do, stopping to give thought to the entire hand is better advice.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 18-26	♠ 764	West	North	East	South
	♥ QJ2	-	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Vul E/W	♦ J10943	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	4 ♥
	♣ QJ	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ KQJ102					
♥ 103	♠ 853				
♦ 87	♥ K95				
♣ A765	♦ 52				
	♣ K10982				
	♠ A9				
	♥ A8764				
	♦ AKQ6				
	♣ 43				

Bidding: North-South had a routine auction to game.

Play: West led the king of spades and declarer won the ace. Declarer then led the ace and another heart. East won the king and with little thought, continued with a second spade. West won and mechanically played a third spade. Declarer ruffed, played a third heart to dummy, and then discarded a club on the last diamond. He lost only 1 spade, 1 heart, and 1 club.

After winning the second spade, West knows that declarer is out of the suit. While it's unlikely any diamond loser will disappear, the same cannot be said for clubs. After winning the second spade, it seems reasonable to lead the ace of clubs and see what partner thinks about it. An encouraging reply will quickly mean two club tricks for the defense and down one for declarer.

In a small, local pairs game, seven E/W pairs bid and made four hearts. It seems some lessons on defense are in order.

#2 –

The preemptive bid can be quite effective in bridge. However, it is a two-edged sword that can cut both ways.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 18-27	♠ 8	-	-	-	1♦
	♥ Q976	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥
Vul N/S	♦ AK852	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
	♣ A109	Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
♠ 75		Pass			
♥ KJ102					
♦					
♣ K875432					
	♠ QJ109632				
	♥ 5				
	♦ 976				
	♣ QJ				
	♠ AK4				
	♥ A843				
	♦ QJ1043				
	♣ 6				

Bidding: South was a bit light for his 4♥ bid, but that was a better description of his hand than passing East's preempt. After finding two keycards in his partner's hand, North gave South a choice of slams. Hoping to discard any heart loser on a spade honor, South chose diamonds as the safer contract.

Play: West led the seven of spades that was won by the ace. Declarer drew trumps followed by the king of spades discarding a heart from dummy. Now declarer only needed to find the king of hearts in the West hand and wrapped up his slam.

In a small, local game, most N/S pairs stopped in 4♥ scoring eleven tricks while one pair failed in 6♥. One E/W pair bid 6♠ but accurate defense starting with two rounds of trumps scored eight tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds, 1 club, and 1 club ruff) for +1700.

The fate of many contracts depends on finding the missing high cards. While assumptions can be dangerous, sometimes they are essential.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 18-28	♠ Q72	West	North	East	South
	♥ K3	-	-	1♠	2♥
Vul None	♦ J432	3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
	♣ AJ105	Pass			

♠ 9863		♠ AK1054
♥ 65		♥ 94
♦ Q9		♦ A1076
♣ K7643		♣ 92
		♠ J
	♥ AQJ10872	
	♦ K85	
	♣ Q8	


Bidding: West's three spade bid was preemptive and North, hoping his doubleton heart honor was enough, raised his partner to game.

Play: West led the nine of spades to East's king. East shifted quickly to a low diamond to put declarer on a guess. Declarer stopped to consider the hand. With one spade and two diamonds to lose, he needed to find the king of clubs in the West hand. If that was the case, that meant East needed the ace of diamonds for his opening bid. Therefore, declarer rose with the king of diamonds, drew trumps, followed by the queen of clubs. This won, and another finesse allowed him to discard a diamond. He ended with eleven tricks losing only one spade and one diamond.

Note if declarer guesses wrong in diamonds, West will win the queen, return another to his partner's ace, and then ruff the third round to defeat the contract.

Every now and then, the good luck that seemed to be coming our way takes a detour.

Scoring: Imps (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 18-29	♠ K	-	-	Pass	1♦
	♥ AKJ107	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣
Vul Both	♦ Q872	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
	♣ J72	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
♠ Q97432		Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
♥ 1054		Pass			
♦ K865					
	♠ 865				
	♥ Q9865432				
	♦ 43				
	♠ AJ10				
	♥				
	♦ AKJ963				
	♣ AQ109				

Bidding: East felt that a vulnerable preempt in first seat should show a better suit, so he passed. After South's strong jumpshift, North was headed to slam. South cue bid spades and North's four diamonds was Minorwood to ask about keycards. South showed four and North bid the grand slam. Play: West led a low diamond and declarer drew two more rounds. Next, he led a spade to dummy followed by the ace of hearts. He discarded two clubs on the top hearts followed by the jack of hearts to ruff out East's queen. He simply had to ruff a spade in dummy and discard his other club on the ten of hearts.

At the other table in this team game, East boldly opened three hearts and South made a takeout double. North couldn't believe his good fortune and passed for penalties. This contract failed by four tricks, but +1100 compared to -2140 at the other table was a 14 imp loss. Its difficult to fault North for choosing to defend but some days are just like that.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2018 & 2019 only

2019/3/2	72.22%	Abigail Nichols & Carl Nelson
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



#081 – RUFFS IN THE LONG HAND

	♠ JT98 ♥ AK74 ♦ K52 ♣ T2	
♠ A32 ♥ QJT ♦ J97 ♣ AQJ8	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ 9832 ♦ QT863 ♣ K94
	♠ KQ765 ♥ 65 ♦ A4 ♣ 7653	

We'll spare you the auction, but it looks like Partner's been overbidding again, as you find yourself declaring 4♠ on slender values. The good news is that the hands fit well and after the opening lead of the ♥Q you actually have a chance. You have four natural trump tricks and four side-suit winners, so the other two must come from ruffs. The obvious solution is to ruff two Clubs in Dummy (the "short hand"). Do you see any snags?

The problem with going after Club ruffs in Dummy is that the lead must be lost twice. If the trumps are 3-1 this will allow the defense to lead three rounds of trumps, holding Dummy's ruffs to just one and leaving Declarer a trick short. The

solution is to go after *three* ruffs in *Declarer's* hand. That way ten tricks are reached via Dummy's three natural trump tricks, plus Declarer's three ruffs, plus the four side-suit winners. So, Declarer wins the opening lead with the ♥A, cashes ♥K, ruffs a Heart, cashes ♦A and ♦K and ruffs a Diamond. Declarer eventually reaches Dummy with a trump, and can score that third ruff in the long hand.

When Declarer is ruffing those red suits she will take care to ruff high, thereby ensuring that she actually can reach Dummy later on. If, after taking two low ruffs, Declarer left herself with ♠KQ7, West would be able to thwart Declarer's plan.

P.S. Yes, an opening trump lead sets the contract.

#082 – A MATTER OF TIMING

	♠ A964 ♥ QT9632 ♦ ♣ KQ3	
♠ 83 ♥ KJ ♦ KQT72 ♣ JT96	North West East Declarer	♠ 752 ♥ 875 ♦ AJ86 ♣ A52
	♠ KQJT ♥ A4 ♦ 9543 ♣ 874	

E-W Vulnerable

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

4♣ is a precarious contract, and requires careful timing if Declarer is to succeed. West leads the ♦K, which Declarer ruffs in Dummy. What are the dangers, and how will Declarer overcome them?

Some Heart tricks are required, but it won't do to draw trumps and then play on Hearts, in that case the defense will cash their Diamonds. Better timing is required and Declarer

must play on Hearts first, allowing Dummy to handle a Diamond continuation. So, the ♥A is cashed, and a Heart lost to West's King. Back comes a Diamond, ruffed in Dummy, what next?

It's still too soon to draw trumps! That would leave Dummy without a quick entry to the Hearts, and the defense would get in with their ♣A and again have Diamond winners to cash. So, Declarer makes another fine play, he leads Dummy's ♣K! Now East has only losing options:

- He can take his ♣A and persist with Diamonds, in which case Dummy ruffs (with the Ace!), trumps are drawn, and the ♣Q is an entry to Dummy's Hearts.
- He can take the ♣A and return a Club (knocking out Dummy's entry), in which case Declarer can scamper home on a cross-ruff, scoring one Heart, one Club, and all eight of those trumps.
- He can duck the ♣A, in which case it's another cross-ruff.

That was delicately timed, as drawing even a single round of trumps early in the play would be a mistake. Look what happens: Diamond opening lead is ruffed, Spade to Declarer's King, ♥A, Heart to West's King, Diamond ruff, ♥Q ruffed by West, ♣J covered by the King and Ace, Club to Dummy's Queen. Now Declarer has an awkward guess ... if the remaining two enemy trumps are split then Dummy's Ace must be cashed before running the Hearts ... but if East has both missing trumps (the actual case) then the Hearts must be played first. It's better to avoid that guess!

#083 – AN ESSENTIAL PRECAUTION

	♠ K ♥ J854 ♦ J75 ♣ AKQJ6	
♠ Q932 ♥ 9763 ♦ A6 ♣ 875	North West East Declarer	♠ 854 ♥ K ♦ KQ982 ♣ T942
	♠ AJT76 ♥ AQT2 ♦ T43 ♣ 3	

Both Vulnerable

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

N-S zip into 4♥, and West sensibly leads the unbid suit. After the defense has cashed three Diamonds, East exits a Spade and now the contract depends on Declarer picking up the trumps for no losers. Any thoughts?

Of course, Declarer will finesse against East for the ♥K and the lazy way of doing that is to run the Jack around, thereby keeping the lead in Dummy for a repeat finesse, if necessary. But, alas for Declarer, there is no repeat finesse! East's King covers the ♥J and, when East shows out on the second Heart, Declarer realizes that he has blundered! Now West's Heart Nine will eventually score a trick and Declarer is down one.

It was necessary for Declarer to lead a *low* Heart from the board, an essential precaution against East having a singleton King. This is the kind of problem that nobody gets wrong when they see it in the newspaper. But in the heat of battle it is a different story, as evidenced at a recent club duplicate game where four (embarrassed) Declarers managed to lose a trump trick and go down.

#084 – A SHOW-OFF SQUEEZE

	♠ K87 ♥ AKJ84 ♦ 6 ♣ K982	
♠ QJT654 ♥ T653 ♦ 52 ♣ 3	North West East Declarer	♠ 3 ♥ Q7 ♦ 987 ♣ AQJT765
	♠ A92 ♥ 92 ♦ AKQJT43 ♣ 4	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

		1♥	3♣
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against 6♦ West led a Club, won by East's Ten. Hoping for a trump promotion, East returned a low Club, but Declarer could afford to ruff high and draw trumps. There are 11 tricks on top, where's the 12th?

Plan A is to cash the top Hearts and ruff a Heart, hoping that the ♥Q comes down in three rounds. That happens to

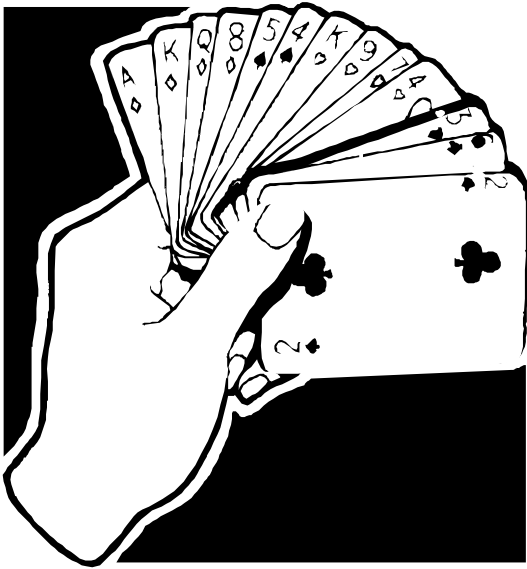
work on the actual lie of the cards, but it's not a good way to play the hand. More often than not, West will have long Hearts with the Queen (remember that East has long Clubs and is therefore likely to be short in Hearts).

Plan B is the doomed Heart finesse, but fortunately there's a Plan C which is guaranteed to succeed, regardless of who has the ♥Q! Declarer cashes the ♠A, ♠K and ♥A, and returns to hand with a Club ruff. With West showing out on the second Club, and East showing out on the second Spade, East is known to have started with 1=2=3=7 distribution.

Does that change things? Sure it does! Declarer rattles off the remaining Diamonds, keeping ♥KJ in Dummy and putting West under pressure. West must hang on to a high Spade, which will leave room in his hand for just one Heart. At Trick 12 a Heart is led and when West does not show up with the Queen, Declarer can be sure that it is dropping from the East hand. It's called a Show-Up Squeeze, and there's no guesswork required! Actually, Declarer could have flaunted his mastery by claiming after Trick 5. That would have been a Show-Off Squeeze.

P.S. After drawing trumps, Declarer did well to cash the ♠A next. That way, if East is void in Spades then the Hearts must be 3-3, and Declarer can revert to Plan A.

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

