



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 5 – May, 2019

14 pages



May Events

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

May 6 – STaC open pairs

May 13 – mentor pairs

May 20 – open pairs

May 27 – 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:

Wednesday, May 1, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, May 2, 11:45AM – Grass Roots FUNd open pairs

Saturday, May 4, NO GAME – GNT in Sherman

Monday, May 6, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only & open pairs

Wednesday, May 8, 1:15PM – STaC 499ers only & open pairs

Thursday, May 9, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs

Saturday, May 11, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs

Sunday, May 12, 1:15PM – special STaC open pairs

Monday, May 13, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Tuesday, May 14, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, May 15, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, May 16, 11:45AM – Grass Roots FUNd open pairs

Saturday, May 18, 11:45AM – Grass Roots FUNd open pairs

Monday, May 20, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Wednesday, May 22, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, May 23, 11:45AM – Grass Roots FUNd open pairs

Saturday, May 25, 11:45AM – Grass Roots FUNd open pairs

Monday, May 27, NO GAME – Enjoy your Memorial Day!

Tuesday, May 28, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, May 29, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, May 30, 11:45AM – Grass Roots FUNd 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 4/6/2019 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	3,971.00	Steve Babin
2	3,729.55	Betty Capodice
3	3,261.52	Zack Freehill
4	3,056.29	Eunice Patton
5	2,713.26	JoAnn Schroeder
6	2,536.74	Cindy Moore
7	2,226.32	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,146.48	Ann Schuyler
9	1,911.63	Lori Moore
10	1,729.06	Ron Emmett
11	1,543.57	Charlie Morton
12	1,479.73	Jeff Furler
13	1,257.41	Jeanne Strand
14	1,161.30	Ivey Weaver
15	1,125.49	Joyce Clay
16	1,045.75	Jean Barnett
17	994.35	Steve Wulfers
18	994.16	Randall Motchan
19	809.09	Dave Freehill
20	797.02	Henrietta Crain
21	593.72	Ray Dostal
22	586.21	Sallie Boge
23	475.25	Mary Tweedie
24	473.94	Mary Cralley
25	454.93	Fred Spitzerrie

Other players:

12,678.77	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,243.15	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,183.23	John Seng-Champaign
4,817.36	Ron Sholes-Springfield
4,213.99	Christine Carroll-Champaign
4,031.31	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
3,461.62	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
3,343.73	Doug Moore-St Louis
3,079.85	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,068.95	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
3,051.53	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,645.05	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,595.68	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,561.15	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,492.90	Gail Moon-Tennessee
2,326.62	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,213.08	John Maloney-Champaign
1,897.01	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,856.11	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,338.21	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,325.93	Jim Moon-Tennessee
1,269.31	Dan Bunde-Champaign
959.91	Wes Seitz-Champaign
746.40	Carole Miller-Champaign
744.78	Bill Strauss-Urbana
587.97	Melda Richardson-California
574.67	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
567.25	Lane O'Connor-Lisle
558.19	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 -

Ensuring the contract is almost always the correct strategy in a team game scored by Imps. This declarer found a way around a transportation problem by ignoring a chance for an overtrick.

Scoring: Imps (Teams)

Hand 18-30	♠ A943	West	North	East	South
	♥ AQ9	-	-	Pass	1NT
Vul Both	♦ 865	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
	♣ J72	Pass			

♠ Q1087	□	♠ J652
♥ J10532		♥ K7
♦ Q102		♦ 74
♣ Q		♣ K10843
	♠ K	
	♥ 864	
	♦ AKJ93	
	♣ A965	

Bidding: Anticipating rebid problems if he bid one diamond, South opened with 1NT. Holding such a flat hand, North went right to 3NT.

Play: West led a low heart ducked to East's king. The heart return to the queen left declarer with communication problems. If the diamond finesse lost, a heart return would strand dummy's ace of spades. This was a team game with overtricks of little value and declarer saw that he only needed four diamond tricks. At trick three he led a low spade to his king. Next, he led the two top diamonds followed by a third one. West won the diamond queen and played a third heart to dummy's ace. Declarer cashed the ace of spades followed by a low club to his ace. He now had nine tricks: two spades, two hearts, four diamonds, and one club.

#2 –

The impulse by new players to return their partner’s lead is strong. However, learning to stop and think about the entire hand before acting will often achieve better results.

Scoring: Imps (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 18-31	♠ A7	-	-	Pass	1♦
	♥ A6	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Vul Both	♦ Q10862	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
	♣ K1072	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
♠ KQ32		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ K9752					
♦ 74					
♣ 54					

♠ 109864	♠ J5
♥ J10	♥ Q843
♦ A3	♦ KJ95
♣ J963	♣ AQ8

Bidding: North’s 2♦ bid was an inverted raise showing diamond support with ten plus points. N/S then began cue bidding controls and since it appeared there was only one spade stopper, they avoided 3NT ending instead in 5♦.

Play: West led the king of spades and declarer saw three probable losers: one spade, one heart, and one diamond. He won the opening lead followed by a low diamond to his king. Next, he cashed the AQ of clubs before exiting with a diamond. In with the ace of diamonds, without much thought East returned a spade. West won the queen but was end-played. Spades and diamonds had been eliminated and he had no more clubs so had to either lead a heart from his king, or a spade. He led a heart and declarer won the queen and made his contract losing only one spade and one diamond. The spade return would have been equally bad, allowing declarer to discard dummy’s heart loser while ruffing in his hand.

Instead of returning a spade, a heart return by East would have defeated the contract. At the other table, their teammates beat 3NT by one trick for a gain of 12 Imps.

A difficult defensive position occurs when a singleton is led from dummy on your right and you must decide if it's right to rise with the ace. As this hand shows, it is often better to play low.

Scoring: Imps (Teams)

Hand 18-32	♠ 10982	West	North	East	South
	♥ 7	-	-	Pass	1 ♠
Vul Both	♦ KQ9	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
	♣ Q9862	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
♠ 74		Pass			
♥ Q9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>				
♦ A10654					
♣ K1075					
	♠ KQJ65				
	♥ KJ1082				
	♦ J8				
	♣ A				
	♠ A3				
	♥ A6543				
	♦ 732				
	♣ J43				

Bidding: South made a game try showing a second suit. North bid game hoping his fourth trump would allow the heart suit to be established.

Play: West led a low spade to the ace and East returned another. Declarer counted the spade loser along with the two red aces and that meant he could not lose a second heart trick. He won the second spade in dummy and led the heart. East played low in tempo and declarer put in the jack. West won the queen and cashed the ace of diamonds. Declarer still had to lose to the ace of hearts and was down one.

At the other table in this team game, in a similar position East rose with his ace of hearts and declarer made ten tricks when the heart queen fell doubleton. Holding five hearts and with only two trumps left in dummy, there was no need to play the ace when dummy's singleton was led.

#4 –

A strong defense will force declarer to make tough decisions. This hand is a great example.

Scoring: Imps (Teams)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 18-33	-	-	Pass	1 ♠
Vul Both	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
	Pass			

♠ J2	♠ 543
♥ 9853	♥ J104
♦ QJ	♦ AK964
♣ 98762	♣ J4

♠ AKQ96
♥ K6
♦ 872
♣ AQ10

Bidding: South made a game try and North, holding a maximum raise, accepted.

Play: West led the queen of diamonds and East encouraged. A second diamond went to East who cashed a third round as West discarded a low club. East expected declarer to hold most of the missing high cards so his only hope seemed to be a fourth round of diamonds hoping West held a spade good enough to promote.

Declarer had a dilemma. If West held the jack of spades along with two others, the contract would fail. He could trump with an honor if he felt either East or West held the jack of spades alone or with one more spade. Or, he could ruff with the nine if he felt the jack was in the East hand. He wasn't sure of the odds of the jack being doubleton or singleton, but he did know the odds were 50% that West did not hold the jack. Therefore, he ruffed with the nine and was down one.

At the other table in this team game, the defense led hearts and declarer had no trouble finding eleven tricks. This was a swing of 13 imps.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2018 & 2019 only

2019/4/17	73.33%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2019/4/8	70.14%	Rick Dalton & Zoe Freeman(99ers)
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



#085 – DON'T BE FOOLED!

♠ Q973 ♥ QJ98 ♦ J943 ♣ A		
♠ JT86 ♥ K4 ♦ AQ5 ♣ QT32	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ K542 ♥ 32 ♦ T82 ♣ 9864
	♠ A ♥ AT765 ♦ K76 ♣ KJ75	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass

4♥ Pass Pass Pass

In a problem-solving mood? Then cover up S-E and look only at the N-W hands. As West, you lead the ♠J and the defense must somehow conjure up four tricks. But be warned! Declarer is a tricky fellow, and some flim-flam is not entirely out of the question.

The ♠J opening lead is covered by the Queen, King, Ace. Declarer leads a Club to Dummy's ♣A, and then takes the

losing Heart finesse. After winning the ♥K it is time for West to ponder a while. Where will the defense find three more tricks?

Can the defense cash three Diamonds? Probably not, Declarer is favorite to hold the ♦K and, anyway, there's no rush, those Diamonds aren't going anywhere. It looks like there is a Spade to cash (based on the play of the ♠Q at Trick 1), but that also can wait. So you exit safely with a Heart and await developments. Declarer wins that in Dummy and leads a Diamond to his King and your Ace. Now what?

At this point it might seem obvious for West to cash the ♠T and the ♦Q for down one. But by now you should be getting suspicious. Why hasn't Declarer led a Spade to the board, setting up Dummy's Nine for a Diamond pitch? The reason is that Declarer doesn't have a second Spade! That squandering of the Queen at Trick 1 was a clever ruse, designed to fool you. The only way to beat the contract now is to lead a casual *low* Diamond, hoping that Declarer will misguess and finesse the Diamond Nine. He probably will, and that will be down one! A fiendishly deceptive play is foiled by sound logic.

#086 – THE KEY CARD

	♠ 3 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ AK95 ♣ A765	
♠ KQT9852 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 ♣ K982	North West East Declarer	♠ J ♥ T43 ♦ QJT7642 ♣ JT
	♠ A764 ♥ J9876 ♦ 3 ♣ Q43	

West opens 3♠ and eventually South becomes Declarer in 6♥. West's opening lead is the ♠K, won by Declarer's Ace. Looking just at the N-S hands, Declarer can count four side-suits tricks, with a fifth available if the ♣K is with East. That means that he will need to score 7 or 8 trump tricks if he is to make his slam. And with East sure to be out of Spades by now, any Spade ruffs will have to be high. How do you make 12 tricks?

One possibility is to hope for 2-2 trumps and for East to have the ♣K. In that case, trumps are drawn, and Declarer gets up to 12 with five trumps in his hand, five side-suit tricks and two Spade ruffs on the board. That's not a good plan ...

firstly, as West has extreme Spade length, he is likely to have less than his share of the Hearts ... secondly, this line requires the ♠K with East, and those readers who have peeked at the E-W hands can see that this is not the case.

Better, but still not good enough, is to arrange for two high Spade ruffs, and to pick up trumps by finessing against East's Ten. That caters for the 3-1 trumps, but it's down one when the ♠K is offside. The route to success is to ruff *three* Spades high in Dummy: win the ♠A, cross to the ♣A, finesse the Heart Nine, ruff a Spade, cash ♦AK (pitching a Club from hand), and then merrily cross-ruff the hand. That well-timed line of play works against most distributions, requiring only that East has the ♥T. *That's* the key card on this deal, not the ♠K!

#087 – BLUFF & DOUBLE-BLUFF

	♠ QT3 ♥ T7 ♦ QJT95 ♣ A98	
♠ A872 ♥ A84 ♦ 832 ♣ T75	North West East Declarer	♠ K95 ♥ Q652 ♦ 764 ♣ QJ3
	♠ J64 ♥ KJ93 ♦ AK ♣ K642	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

South opens a 15-17 1NT, opposite which a 9-point hand is very much on the borderline between bidding game and inviting game. But North's 9-pointer is a particularly fine specimen, what with that 5-card suit and all those lovely Tens, so in this case North has no qualms whatsoever about bidding 3NT directly.

West's opening lead is his 4th best Spade to East's King. East returns the Spade Nine and, in this situation, it sometimes pays for West to duck the trick, thereby

maintaining communications between the E-W hands (so that East still has a Spade to lead if and when he gets in again). But here that is not necessary. West has the ♥A as a fast entry and has no need to duck the second Spade. So, West wins the ♠A and leads a third round, won by Dummy's Queen.

At this point, Declarer has 8 top tricks and must guess the Heart suit correctly if she is to make her contract. When she leads a Heart from Dummy should she play the King or the Jack? It may seem like a pure guess, but in fact Declarer has a clue. West didn't duck that second Spade! Presumably he didn't think it was necessary, and the strong inference is that West has a fast entry, namely the ♥A. So Declarer finesses the Jack and brings home her contract!

If West is a truly devious fellow (and many bridge players are) then he might duck the second Spade anyway, even though it is unnecessary. That could prompt an alert Declarer to conclude that West has no fast entry, and therefore that the ♥A must be with East. In that case, Declarer hops up with the King and goes down one! Then again, if Declarer knows that West is of the devious persuasion, she might smell a rat and guess right anyway. And if West guesses that Declarer will smell a rat then he might ...

#088 – PROTECTING PARTNER’S ENTRY

	♠ K4 ♥ KT32 ♦ J876 ♣ KQ5	
♠ QJT83 ♥ 64 ♦ Q32 ♣ 876	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 975 ♥ QJ97 ♦ A4 ♣ JT94
	♠ A62 ♥ A85 ♦ KT95 ♣ A32	

Both Vulnerable

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

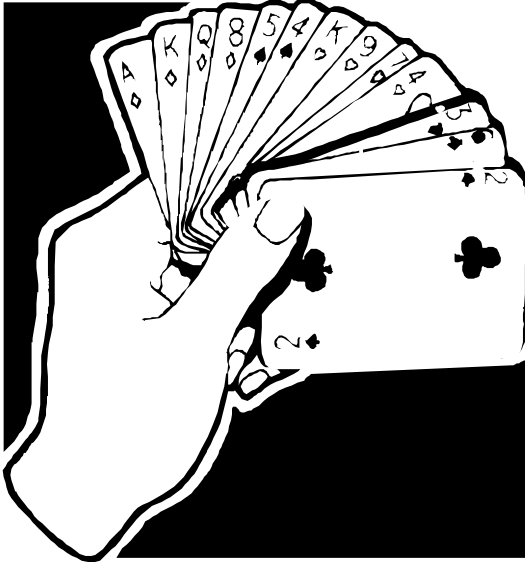
A combined 27 HCP is usually plenty for a 3NT contract, but here the N-S hands did not fit well together. Even so, East needed to keep his wits about him if he was to beat the contract. But, sadly for E-W, East’s wits deserted him at the crucial moment. See if you can do better.

Against 3NT West led the ♠Q which held the trick. Dummy’s King won the second Spade, the Diamond finesse lost to West’s Queen, then back came another Spade, won by

Declarer’s Ace. Now, when Declarer conceded a trick to the ♦A, East was out of Spades, so West’s Spade winners were useless and Declarer romped home with 9 tricks.

Declarer played her part well by holding up on the first Spade, in an attempt to disrupt the E-W communications, but East overlooked an effective counter-measure. With South opening a 15-17 1NT, East knew that his partner had a maximum of five HCP, and three of those had already shown up in the Spade suit. West’s only possible entry to the long Spades was the ♦Q, and it was East’s job to protect that entry for use later in the hand, when the Spades had been established. The way to do that was to disregard the old adage of “second hand low” and to grab the ♦A on the first round of the suit. Now, after the ♠A is knocked out, it is West who wins the second round of Diamonds and can cash his Spades for down one. Alert play by those Easts who hopped up with the ♦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

