



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 6 – June, 2019

12 pages



## June Events

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

**June 3 – mentor pairs**

**June 10 – open pairs**

**June 17 – open pairs**

**June 24 – 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, June 1, 11:45AM – ACBL Education Foundation open pairs**

**Monday, June 3, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs**

**Wednesday, June 5, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs**

**Thursday, June 6, 11:45AM – ACBL Education Foundation open pairs**

**Saturday, June 8, 11:45AM – World Wide Bridge Contest open pairs**

**Sunday, June 9, 1:15PM – monthly 299ers only pairs**

**Monday, June 10, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs**

**Tuesday, June 11, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club**

**Wednesday, June 12, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs**

**Thursday, June 13, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs**

**Saturday, June 15, 12:30PM – NAP qualifier open pairs – SPECIAL START TIME**

**Monday, June 17, 6:15PM – NAP qualifier 99ers only pairs**

**Wednesday, June 19, 1:15PM – NAP qualifier 499ers only pairs**

**Thursday, June 20, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs**

**Saturday, June 22, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs**

**Monday, June 24, 6:15PM – quarterly club championship 99ers only pairs**

**Tuesday, June 25, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club**

**Wednesday, June 26, 1:15PM – quarterly club championship 499ers only pairs**

**Thursday, June 27, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs**

**Saturday, June 29, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship 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 5/6/2019 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



1	3,984.36	Steve Babin
2	3,729.55	Betty Capodice
3	3,278.14	Zack Freehill
4	3,078.22	Eunice Patton
5	2,727.99	JoAnn Schroeder
6	2,556.14	Cindy Moore
7	2,229.57	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,169.94	Ann Schuyler
9	1,918.29	Lori Moore
10	1,737.06	Ron Emmett
11	1,549.32	Charlie Morton
12	1,486.63	Jeff Furler
13	1,257.41	Jeanne Strand
14	1,161.30	Ivey Weaver
15	1,144.04	Joyce Clay
16	1,045.75	Jean Barnett
17	1,003.73	Steve Wulfers
18	994.16	Randall Motchan
19	809.09	Dave Freehill
20	720.61	Stevie Joslin
21	597.41	Ray Dostal
22	590.94	Sallie Boge
23	480.49	Mary Tweedie
24	477.97	Mary Cralley
25	466.87	Fred Spitzerrie

### Other players:

12,691.30	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,258.56	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,185.42	John Seng-Champaign
4,860.42	Ron Sholes-Springfield
4,219.99	Christine Carroll-Champaign
4,062.37	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
3,487.41	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
3,346.51	Doug Moore-St Louis
3,118.87	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,112.54	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
3,071.15	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,645.05	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,602.16	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,561.15	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,492.90	Gail Moon-Tennessee
2,348.87	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,216.32	John Maloney-Champaign
1,901.99	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,863.38	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,354.58	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,325.93	Jim Moon-Tennessee
1,272.34	Dan Bunde-Champaign
962.66	Wes Seitz-Champaign
747.29	Bill Strauss-Urbana
746.40	Carole Miller-Champaign
591.85	Melda Richardson-California
582.56	Darryl Bremner-Canton
577.56	Bill Thompson-Champaign
567.25	Lane O'Connor-Lisle



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#1 –

There are many conventions out there to describe your hand, but you must remember that the opponents are also “listening”.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 18-35	♠ 9863 ♥ AKQ1085	-	1♥	Pass	1♠
Vul Both	♦ 5 ♣ KQ	2NT	4♠	5♦	6♠
		Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 4		♠ Q75
♥ J		♥ 963
♦ AJ10432		♦ K9876
♣ 109874		♣ 63
	♠ AKJ102	
	♥ 742	
	♦ Q	
	♣ AJ52	

**Bidding:** West’s 2NT bid showed long minors and North indicated extra values by jumping to four spades. East continued the preemptive action with five diamonds before South ended the auction by jumping to the slam.

**Play:** West led the ace of diamonds followed by the jack of hearts. Declarer won the ace and then led a spade to his ace. Since West had bid boldly with such a weak club suit, declarer felt confident West was short in spades. He continued with a low club to dummy followed by a low spade to the jack. He drew the last trump and wrote +1430 on his scorecard.

At the other table in this team game, West did not give away his distribution, and N/S failed in six spades. Six hearts is a safer contract because the spade guess is unnecessary.

As declarer your line of play is often limited to one or two choices. But, some hands present several possible roads to success, and the path selected tells us something about that person.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 18-34	-	-	Pass	1♦
Vul Both	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
	Pass			

♠ 10964		♠ 532
♥ 1083	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥ K52
♦ 62		♦ KQ
♣ A1073		♣ J8542

♠ Q8
♥ AQJ7
♦ AJ973
♣ KQ

**Bidding:** South might have rebid two hearts to show his second suit, but his 2NT rebid showing 18-19 high card points and a balanced or semi-balanced hand was reasonable. North had an easy raise to game.

**Play:** West led the three of clubs and there were only seven sure tricks: 4 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 1 club. At the first table, South was a pessimist who saw no reasonable line that didn't risk going down more than one trick. He played on diamonds and was down one losing one diamond and four clubs. Playing for down one is often a good tactic at matchpoints. He commented that five diamonds was cold.

At the next table again in 3NT, declarer was an optimist, always feeling he could make his contract. He won the club followed by a low spade to the jack. Next, he led a low heart to his queen. He then played the queen of spades overtaking with the ace. He cashed the king of spades and then led a second heart to his jack. He then cashed the ace and when the hearts were 3-3, he had his nine tricks: 3 spades, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club. A 3-3 heart breaks occurs only 36% of the time and the king will be on-side only half of that, but this time the low percentage play worked.

Three notrumps was also the contract at the third table. This declarer was an opportunist, always looking for a way to steal a trick. He won the club lead followed by four rounds of spades. We must now turn our attention to East. He loved his partner's club lead and did not want to discard a defensive trick. He couldn't discard a diamond, so he released what seemed a worthless heart. Declarer now led a heart to his queen and next when the king dropped under the ace and the suit divided 3-3, he had ten tricks: 4 spades, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club.

What type of declarer are you?

#3 –

The huge number of bidding conventions and agreements available can make it difficult to remember what you play with each partner. However, some are obvious when employed and can be quite useful.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 18-36	♠ 7643	West	North	East	South
	♥ K763	-	Pass	Pass	2♣
Vul Both	♦ 8	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	♣ A1064	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
♠ 82		Pass	5♥	Pass	7♥
♥ 9		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ QJ1076					
♣ Q9853					

	♠ QJ1095
	♥ 42
	♦ 953
	♣ K72

♠ AK
♥ AQJ1085
♦ AK42
♣ J

**Bidding:** North's two diamond bid was artificial showing values but no strong suit. His bid of four diamonds was a splinter, showing diamond shortness along with heart support. South used Roman Keycard to discover his partner held two keycards (four aces and the trump king) and bid the grand slam.

**Play:** West led the queen of diamonds to declarer's ace. The play was simple: Declarer drew trumps, ruffed his two low diamonds in dummy, and claimed.

In the auction, South was concerned his diamond holding and the splinter bid made it easy to count thirteen tricks. In a small, local game most N/S pairs stopped in a small slam.

#4 –

If you are going to sacrifice, it is best to bid as high as you can at your first opportunity.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand 18-37	♠ 5432 ♥	West	North	East	South
		2♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
Vul Both	♦ AK9876 ♣ K98	Pass	DBL	Pass	5♠
		Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 7		♠ A98
♥ AK7643		♥ QJ10985
♦ 32		♦ J10
♣ J542		♣ Q6
		♠ KQJ106
		♥ 2
		♦ Q54
		♣ A1073

**Bidding:** After West's weak two-heart bid, East was not willing to defend a likely four spade bid so he applied maximum pressure with five hearts. South didn't quite have the courage to compete and left it up to his partner. North doubled and South could only bid five spades.

**Play:** West's lead of the ace of hearts was ruffed in dummy. Declarer drew trumps and lost only to the ace of spades. The diamond suit provided discards for declarer's losing clubs.

At the other table in this team game, East bid only to four hearts and North-South reached the spade slam. Note that five hearts doubled would only go down two tricks for -500 compared to the -1430 for the slam.



## **Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2018 & 2019 only**

<b>2019/5/30</b>	<b>76.00%</b>	<b>Hank Hoffman &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2019/5/18</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>Bill Strauss &amp; Wes Seitz</b>
<b>2019/5/16</b>	<b>72.00%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Steve Wulfers</b>
<b>2019/4/17</b>	<b>73.33%</b>	<b>Kay Marvin &amp; Linda Odette(499ers)</b>
<b>2019/4/8</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Rick Dalton &amp; Zoe Freeman(99ers)</b>
<b>2019/3/2</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Abigail Nichols &amp; Carl Nelson</b>
<b>2019/2/9</b>	<b>73.21%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Chuck Young</b>
<b>2019/1/7</b>	<b>72.50%</b>	<b>Doug Lamb &amp; Bob Bray(99ers)</b>
<b>2019/1/2</b>	<b>73.02%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford (499ers)</b>
<b>2018/12/17</b>	<b>75.43%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Ann Schuyler</b>
<b>2018/11/28</b>	<b>70.47%</b>	<b>Kay Marvin &amp; Linda Odette(499ers)</b>
<b>2018/11/26</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Ron Calabrese &amp; Rick Dalton(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/10/29</b>	<b>73.15%</b>	<b>Bev Branning &amp; Bob Bray(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/10/31</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Cindy Moore &amp; Jeff Furler</b>
<b>2018/10/29</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Ron Calabrese &amp; Bob Bye(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/10/11</b>	<b>73.21%</b>	<b>Linda Odette &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2018/10/10</b>	<b>73.21%</b>	<b>Kay Marvin &amp; Linda Odette(499ers)</b>
<b>2018/9/17</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Ron Calabrese &amp; Bob Bye(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/8/28</b>	<b>74.55%</b>	<b>Lori &amp; Cindy Moore(Illinois Senior Olympics)</b>
<b>2018/8/20</b>	<b>74.07%</b>	<b>Doug Lamb &amp; Joe Culpepper(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/8/6</b>	<b>76.39%</b>	<b>Ron Calabrese &amp; Bob Bye(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/7/30</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; Terry Goodykoontz</b>
<b>2018/7/25</b>	<b>71.43%</b>	<b>John Ford &amp; John Cralley(499ers)</b>
<b>2018/7/23</b>	<b>76.25%</b>	<b>Ron Calabrese &amp; Bob Bye(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/6/2</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Cindy Moore &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2018/5/7</b>	<b>70.34%</b>	<b>Cindy Lake &amp; Eunice Patton</b>
<b>2018/4/18</b>	<b>70.48%</b>	<b>Kay Marvin &amp; Linda Odette(499ers)</b>
<b>2018/4/9</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Doug Lamb &amp; Joe Culpepper(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/3/17</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Ron Emmett &amp; Paul Lindauer</b>
<b>2018/2/26</b>	<b>78.08%</b>	<b>Bob Bray &amp; Larry Ziegler(99ers)</b>
<b>2018/1/24</b>	<b>70.24%</b>	<b>John Ford &amp; Ray Dostal(499ers)</b>

## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #089 – CONJURING TRICK

	♠ Q2 ♥ QJT6 ♦ A432 ♣ A62	
♠ J98 ♥ A ♦ T987 ♣ KQT87	North  West East  Declarer	♠ K76543 ♥ 852 ♦ J6 ♣ J9
	♠ AT ♥ K9743 ♦ KQ5 ♣ 543	

*E-W Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1♥ Pass 4♥? All Pass

North took the direct route to game, but there are better ways to bid that hand. Most tournament players use 1♥-4♥ as a preempt (5+ Hearts and a weak hand) and use a conventional 2NT bid for the actual North hand, thereby giving N-S the opportunity to investigate slam if appropriate (which in this case it is not!)

Against 4♥ West led the ♠K, won by Dummy's Ace. A trump was lost to West's Ace, then West cashed two Clubs and exited safely with a Diamond. At this point Declarer could

count nine top tricks. Do you see how she might conjure up a tenth?

Before Declarer commences any conjuring it will occur to her that West has shown up with ♥A and the ♣KQ, and that if he also held the ♠K he would no doubt have been heard from in the bidding. So, East has the ♠K.

At first glance it might appear that the only chance is for the Diamonds to break 3-3. What if one defender has four (or more) Diamonds *and* the ♠K? In that case could Declarer rattle off all her trumps and save the day with a squeeze? Not if it is East who holds the vital cards, because he will be discarding last and will pitch whatever suit Dummy pitches. So that squeeze won't work. And we know that West cannot hold the ♠K so clearly the squeeze won't work against him.

Does that mean that we are back to relying on 3-3 Diamonds? Actually, no! Declarer has a clever resource available. She leads the ♠Q from Dummy, East must cover, and Declarer's Ace wins the trick. Now the all-important Spade card is the Jack and there *is* room in West's hand for that. So, Declarer now runs the Hearts, hoping that Diamonds are 3-3 or that West is squeezed in Spades and Diamonds. 10 tricks in exotic fashion (that play is known as a Transfer Squeeze, so named because it transfers the Spade guard from one defender to the other).



#090 – RISK AND REWARD

	♠ A ♥ Q63 ♦ AQJ96 ♣ K863	
♠ JT982 ♥ K98 ♦ 54 ♣ QT4	North  West East  Declarer	♠ Q73 ♥ JT7 ♦ KT7 ♣ J972
	♠ K654 ♥ A542 ♦ 832 ♣ A5	

*Both Vulnerable*

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

In a team game or a money game, making the contract is all-important, and overtricks are merely a secondary consideration. But, in duplicate bridge, the method of scoring rewards overtricks and, as we'll see, that can influence the play of the hand.

First, try this 3NT in a team game, and focus entirely on making the contract. West leads ♠J, won in Dummy.

Declarer sees that four Diamond tricks will suffice to make the contract and, as a safety play against East having the singleton King, he might cash the ♦A first. That doesn't produce the King so Declarer next leads the ♦Q from Dummy, and when the dust clears, Declarer has 9 tricks. Routine stuff.

However, playing the same contract in a duplicate game, Declarer is more likely to try for an overtrick or two and, under the right circumstances, might even risk his contract in the process. As before, West leads the ♠J, won in Dummy. This time, Declarer says "Phooey!" to that safety play, and will try for five Diamond tricks. So, he crosses to the ♣A and finesses the ♦Q. But East is a devious fellow and fiendishly drops his Ten under Dummy's Queen. Now, Declarer can see 10 easy tricks in his future. He crosses to the ♥A, cashes the ♠K (otherwise it will be stranded), and runs the ♦8. But this loses to East's King, the defense runs the Spades, and it's down one in a cold contract!

Declarer's play was disastrous but, at duplicate scoring, not unreasonable. If he'd have made his overtrick he would have been rewarded with a good score. Too bad for him that the ♦K was offside, and East was tricky enough to duck the first Diamond, and Spades broke 5-3. It took three pieces of bad luck to bring about Declarer's downfall.

#091 – A HAND WITH EXTRAS

	♠ KQJ4 ♥ K632 ♦ 73 ♣ Q64	
♠ A5 ♥ QJ95 ♦ KJ84 ♣ 975	North West East South	♠ 7 ♥ AT84 ♦ 9652 ♣ K832
	♠ T98632 ♥ 7 ♦ AQT ♣ AJT	

South West North East  
 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass  
 ??

Usually this column deals with play and defensive problems, but this week it's all about the bidding. Take a look at the South hand. What do you see? A hand that would open a Weak Two in Spades? A hand that would pass in first seat? Or a minimum 1♠ opening bid? Actually, it's none of the above!

Back in the day, we needed 13 HCP to open the bidding (or 12 if we were feeling frisky), but experienced players don't just count their points, they also consider their distribution. One

tool for doing that is the Rule of 20 ... we add HCP to the length of our two longest suits ... if the total is 20 or more we have an opening bid. By this measure, South scores 11+6+3, and just manages to scrape up the magic number. So, let us agree that the South hand is worth a 1♠ opening bid.

North's 3♠ showed game-invitational values, saying "Bid game if you have something extra". Does South have said extras? Some might say "No!", on the grounds that the hand has only 11 HCP, and that it barely squeaked into opening territory on the Rule of 20 basis. Maybe so, but nonetheless the South hand *does* have extras. There is that singleton Heart ... the 6<sup>th</sup> trump ... and those lovely minor-suit Tens! Extras, indeed!

So, South cheerfully accepts the game invitation, West makes his opening lead (probably the ♥Q) and Dummy is revealed. It's a pretty poor specimen, what with the useless ♥K and not much cover in the minor suits. But, even so, it is good enough. The Diamond finesse loses, but the Club finesse wins and (thanks to the all-important ♠T) there are 10 tricks!

#092 – A TRAIN TO CATCH

	♠ T8 ♥ AK ♦ T65 ♣ KQ5432	
♠ 9765 ♥ QJT6 ♦ -- ♣ JT976	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 432 ♥ 732 ♦ AQ87432 ♣ --
	♠ AKQJ ♥ 9854 ♦ KJ9 ♣ A8	

*N-S Vulnerable*

	South	West	North	East
				3♦
3NT	Pass		6NT	Pass
	Pass	Pass		

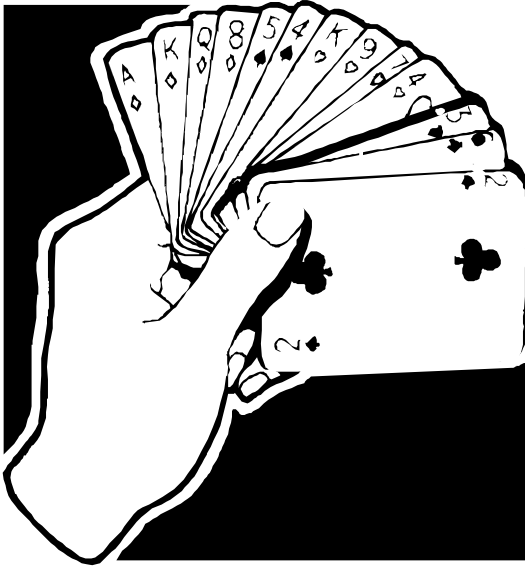
When he bid 6NT, could North be sure that E-W wouldn't cash two Diamonds on the go? Almost. East supposedly had seven Diamonds ... if South's stopper was the Ace or King then no problem ... and if South held Qxx then West probably couldn't lead the suit!

Against 6NT West led the ♥Q. Judging from what followed, one can only assume that this was the last board of the evening and that Declarer had a train to catch. He counted nine top tricks, realized that a couple of Diamond tricks would not get him up to 12, concluded that the Clubs had better be 3-2, and announced to the assembled throng: "Making slam if the Clubs are 3-2, down one if they are 4-1". When it turned out that Clubs were actually 5-0 the protagonists negotiated a settlement of down two.

If Declarer had not been reliant on public transport and had given more thought at Trick 1 then he might have seen that the contract had chances even if Clubs misbehaved. Our question is: At Trick 2, what is the only card from Dummy which enables Declarer to make his contract? That's right, Dummy must lead the Diamond Ten, being prepared to let it ride if East plays low. But say that East hops up with the Ace and fires back another Heart. Now, Declarer is up to 11 tricks. He takes his two Diamond tricks, then his Spades, and poor West is done for. He cannot retain control of Hearts and Clubs, something has to give, and a squeeze produces the 12<sup>th</sup> trick!

That Diamond play at Trick 2 gave Declarer an extra chance and could hardly cost. Even if the finesse improbably lost to West's singleton Queen, Declarer would still make his contract if the Clubs were 3-2.

## Upcoming tournaments:



## Towanda [Bloomington] Sectional

Jul 12-14, 2019

Towanda Community Building

103 S. Jefferson St., Towanda, IL 61791

