



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 8 – August, 2019

12 pages



August Events

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

August 5 – mentor pairs August 12 – open pairs

August 19 – open pairs August 26 – 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:

Thursday, August 1, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs

Saturday, August 3, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs

Monday, August 5, 6:15PM – NAP qualifier 99ers only pairs

Wednesday, August 7, 1:15PM – NAP qualifier 499ers only pairs

Thursday, August 8, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs

Saturday, August 10, 11:45AM – quarterly club championship open pairs

Monday, August 12, 6:15PM – quarterly club championship 99ers only pairs

Tuesday, August 13, 12:30PM – Clinton pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, August 14, 1:15PM – quarterly club championship 499ers only pairs

Thursday, August 15, 11:45AM – Addison-Lombard memorial charity club championship open pairs

Saturday, August 17, 11:45AM – Addison-Lombard memorial charity club championship open pairs

Monday, August 19, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Wednesday, August 21, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, August 22, 11:45AM – ACBL Junior fund open pairs

Saturday, August 24, 11:45AM – ACBL Junior fund open pairs

Sunday, August 25, 1:15PM – monthly 299ers only pairs

Monday, August 26, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs

Tuesday, August 27, 1:00PM – Illinois Senior Olympics open pairs - Springfield

Wednesday, August 28, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs

Thursday, August 29, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier open pairs

Saturday, August 31, 11:45AM – NAP qualifier 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 7/6/2019 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,012.13	Steve Babin
2	3,729.55	Betty Capodice
3	3,317.21	Zack Freehill
4	3,110.61	Eunice Patton
5	2,792.82	JoAnn Schroeder
6	2,574.16	Cindy Moore
7	2,238.61	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,209.88	Ann Schuyler
9	1,976.03	Lori Moore
10	1,752.79	Ron Emmett
11	1,494.33	Jeff Furler
12	1,259.89	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.30	Ivey Weaver
14	1,156.74	Joyce Clay
15	1,045.75	Jean Barnett
16	1,029.55	Steve Wulfers
17	994.16	Randall Motchan
18	816.67	Dave Freehill
19	720.61	Stevie Joslin
20	602.82	Ray Dostal
21	598.08	Sallie Boge
22	487.89	Mary Tweedie
23	482.99	Mary Cralley
24	475.63	Fred Spitzerrie
25	405.88	John Cralley

Other players:

12,719.06	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,300.62	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,225.62	John Seng-Champaign
4,924.02	Ron Sholes-Springfield
4,230.25	Christine Carroll-Champaign
4,089.48	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
3,517.05	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
3,362.25	Doug Moore-St Louis
3,155.99	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
3,142.49	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,097.44	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,657.70	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,616.39	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,567.16	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,492.90	Gail Moon-Tennessee
2,377.56	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,257.99	John Maloney-Champaign
1,910.71	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,909.71	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,380.06	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,325.93	Jim Moon-Tennessee
1,280.62	Dan Bunde-Champaign
991.20	Wes Seitz-Champaign
793.43	Bill Strauss-Urbana
753.49	Carole Miller-Champaign
603.43	Bill Thompson-Champaign
599.53	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
597.27	Melda Richardson-California
567.25	Lane O'Connor-Naperville



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#1 –

While new players love to take finesses, the more experienced players will regard a finesse as a last resort. There is also the Practice Finesse. This is one that cannot help but can cost.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 18-42	-	Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul E/W	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
	Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
	Pass			

♠ KJ5	♠ 10862
♥ J9432	♥ AK76
♦ 1097	♦ 654
♣ K6	♣ 97

♠ AQ4	
♥ Q5	
♦ AQJ82	
♣ Q103	

Bidding: North's two spades bid was a transfer to clubs. South's three club response agreed clubs and showed a maximum hand. North ended the auction by bidding game.

Play: West led a low heart to East's king. At trick two, East cashed the ace of hearts and then shifted to a spade. Declarer saw that he needed the club finesse but not the spade finesse. He rose with the ace of spades followed by the queen of clubs. After drawing trumps, it was a simple matter to run the good diamonds and discard dummy's two remaining spades.

Taking the unnecessary spade finesse would have resulted in down one.

#2 –

As declarer, it is often necessary to identify the dangerous opponent. This is not done by assessing their defensive skills, but rather determining the damage they could do if permitted to gain the lead.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 18-43	♠ AJ97	West	North	East	South
	♥ 84	-	Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul N/S	♦ 97	2♥	3♥	Pass	4♠
	♣ K8642	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ KQ3		♠ 54			
♥ AQ10976		♥ 532			
♦ 83		♦ J10652			
♣ J10		♣ Q75			
		♠ 10862			
	♥ KJ				
	♦ AKQ4				
	♣ A93				

Bidding: North's three heart bid was the lebensohl convention. This was Stayman (showing four spades) denying a heart stopper. South ended the auction with a jump to the spade game.

Play: West led the eight of diamonds to declarer's king. From the bidding, declarer expected most of the missing high cards to be with West. He also realized he could not allow East in to lead a heart. At trick two declarer led the eight of spades and this won the trick. Another spade went to the queen and ace. Declarer next led a low club from dummy and inserted the nine. West won the ten but could only cash the king of spades and the ace of hearts to hold declarer to ten tricks.

At some tables the declarers played three rounds of clubs and were disappointed when East won the third round. A heart lead quickly meant down one.

#3 –

At the bridge table, we spend half of our time on defense, yet many players do not work hard to improve on this very difficult part of the game. It took sound reasoning to defeat this contract.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 18-44	♠ 753	West	North	East	South
	♥ AJ1063	-	Pass	Pass	2♣
Vul N/S	♦ K5	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
	♣ 1095	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
		Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ K9642		♠ Q108
♥ 54	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥ Q872
♦ A4		♦ 73
♣ Q732		♣ J864

♠ AJ
♥ K9
♦ QJ109862
♣ AK

Bidding: South's three diamond rebid showed a long diamond suit in a hand with nine plus tricks. North showed a heart suit and South three notrumps.

Play: West led the four of spades and South was in trouble. He wished they had reached a cold five diamonds, but he had to consider his options in three notrumps. East played the queen of spades and since the opening lead marked East with at least three spades, declarer saw no use in holding up. After winning the ace of spades, he led a low diamond to the king and one back to his queen. West won the ace and considered the spade suit. East's play of the queen at trick one denied the jack, so a low spade return was out. Partner's carding in diamonds showed an even number so declarer very likely had seven of them. Concerned that declarer might have the rest of the tricks, West cashed the king of spades. Now it was East's turn to consider the suit. It made no sense to keep the ten and block the suit, so he played it under the king. Now West cashed the rest of the spades and declarer was down one.

Three notrumps succeeded at other tables when West didn't cash the king of spades or when East did not unblock the ten. Defense is not easy.

#4 –

During the auction, it's important to remember we are giving information to our opponents. This declarer "listened" to East and used the information to his advantage.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 18-45	♠ Q63	-	-	1♣	1♥
	♥ 987	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Vul N/S	♦ AK108	Pass	Pass	2♠	3♥
	♣ KJ8	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 1092					
♥ 5					
♦ QJ942					
♣ 9642					
	♠ AJ85				
	♥ A432				
	♦				
	♣ AQ1073				
	♠ K74				
	♥ KQJ106				
	♦ 7653				
	♣ 5				

Bidding: East liked his hand and was disappointed when he discovered his partner was broke. North's cue bid of two clubs showed a strong heart raise and East took this opportunity show his spade suit. With a minimum hand, South declined his partner's game invitation and ended the auction.

Play: West led the deuce of clubs to the eight and East's ten. East then led a low heart to declarer's king. A second high heart revealed the trump situation as West discarded a low club. From the auction, the opening lead, and the play of the cards, it was clear that East had four spades, four hearts, and five clubs. Declarer drew two more trumps followed by a diamond to dummy's eight. Now a spade to the king allowed declarer to lead another diamond. West split his honors and dummy's king won the trick. A club ruffed in hand allowed declarer to lead a third diamond and take the marked finesse. Declarer now had 9 tricks: 1 spade, 4 hearts, and 4 diamonds.

Three hearts was a popular contract in a local, pairs game, and most declarers lost five tricks: 2 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, and 1 club. At this table It would seem that East liked his hand too much and had to tell everyone.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2018 & 2019 only

2019/6/11	77.79%	Marilyn & Darryl Bremner(Clinton pairs)
2019/6/10	70.00%	Lori Moore & Steve Wulfers
2019/5/30	76.00%	Hank Hoffman & Steve Babin
2019/5/18	70.83%	Bill Strauss & Wes Seitz
2019/5/16	72.00%	Lori Moore & Steve Wulfers
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



#097 –

DOUBLE DECEPTION

	♠ T6 ♥ 763 ♦ AQT653 ♣ 87	
♠ K2 ♥ QJT42 ♦ J42 ♣ T43	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ QJ543 ♥ 985 ♦ K7 ♣ QJ9
	♠ A987 ♥ AK ♦ 98 ♣ AK652	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass

2NT Pass 3NT All Pass

We've mentioned in previous Bites how much pleasure bridge players derive from a dastardly bit of trickery now and again. The deception you are about to see was all the more fun because *both* defenders had to be in on the joke.

This looks like a routine contract, wouldn't you say? West leads the ♥Q won by Declarer's Ace. Declarer runs the Diamond Nine, losing to East's King. Back comes a Heart, but now Dummy's Diamonds are good and Declarer romps home with 10 tricks. Bridge is an easy game! But when the deal was played in real life, East and West conspired to make Declarer's life not quite so easy.

East started the fun at Trick 2 by ducking the Diamond! Now Declarer had a choice to make. Should he play West to have started with ♦KJx, in which case the Diamonds will run? Or, should he play for 3-3 Clubs and get to 9 tricks that way? Declarer decided to try Diamonds first and led a second round of the suit. Now West realized that playing low would be fatal for the defense, making it plain to Declarer that West had not started with KJx, that the Diamonds were not coming in and therefore that Dummy's Ace must be played. So, to keep the deception alive, West squandered the Jack on the second round of Diamonds! Our duped Declarer confidently finessed Dummy's Queen, which was taken by East's King. Dummy was now officially dead and Declarer was down.

Nice play by both defenders, but Declarer could have given himself a second way to win. After the Diamond Nine holds the trick he should duck a Club, win the Heart return, and cash the ♠AK. If the suit is 3-3 then there are 9 tricks without the Diamonds ... if the suit does not break then he must rely on a lucky Diamond situation.

#098 –

ONE WINNER TOO MANY

	♠ J9 ♥ AJ98 ♦ K87632 ♣ 8	
♠ QT42 ♥ ♦ JT4 ♣ JT9542	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ K753 ♥ 543 ♦ AQ95 ♣ 76
	♠ A86 ♥ KQT762 ♦ ♣ AKQ3	

Both Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

South might have opened the bidding with an artificial game-forcing 2♣, but one way or the other it seems that N-S should get to slam on these cards. In fact 7♥ is a fine contract, though a hard one to reach. Sadly, our Declarer even managed to go down in 6♥, which took a lot of doing!

Against 6♥, West led the ♣J, Dummy went down and South rued the missed grand slam. Even so, this being a duplicate bridge event, making the overtrick was important. With that

in mind, he counted four side-suit tricks, and could make the rest with ruffs back and forth. In fact, with 10 trumps between the two hands he even had one trump more than was needed to score 13 tricks. So, he cashed the ♥A, followed by his two remaining Club winners. Tragically for Declarer, East ruffed the third round of Clubs and fired back a trump. Suddenly, Declarer's 13 tricks had been compressed into 11 and he was down one!

Declarer's drawing of a round of trumps served no useful purpose whatsoever, the missing trumps being miniscule and offering no overruffing threat. Also, cashing that third Club was a needless risk, Declarer could count up to 13 with just three side-suit tricks and ten trumps. Making the overtrick was simple enough: Win the ♣A, cash the ♣K (pitching a Spade), cash the ♠A, and merrily cross-ruff the rest of the hand for all the tricks. That ♣Q was one winner too many, if instead Declarer had been dealt ♣AK32 then he would have made 13 tricks with ease!

#099 –

YOU MIGHT BE AN EXPERT IF ...

	♠ KJ ♥ AQ9 ♦ KJ65 ♣ KT75	
♠ 9743 ♥ 652 ♦ QT94 ♣ Q9	North West East Declarer	♠ A852 ♥ 43 ♦ 732 ♣ 8632
	♠ QT6 ♥ KJT87 ♦ A8 ♣ AJ4	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Playing in 6♥ there are 11 easy tricks. The 12th might come from a Diamond finesse (it works!), a Club finesse against West (that works too!), or a Club finesse against East (that fails). You might be an expert if you managed to go down in this contract.

Against 6♥ West led the Spade Three to East's Ace. Back came the Spade Two won in Dummy, after which our expert Declarer cashed two trumps only, then ♦A, ♦K, followed by a

Diamond ruff. Now back to Dummy with a trump and the last Diamond was ruffed.

Let us pause to admire Declarer's technique so far. The purpose of ruffing a Diamond was to build a 12th trick if the Queen were to come down in three rounds. And, by ruffing that Diamond before drawing the last trump, Declarer had the timing to ruff the last Diamond also. Thus he was able to discover that West had started with four Diamonds. West had also started with three Hearts. How about the Spades? That suit looked to be 4-4 based on the opening lead and the play to the second trick, in which case West's original distribution was 4=3=4=2.

Decision time had arrived and, with West known to have two Clubs and East four, the odds were two to one in favor of East holding the Queen. So our unfortunate Declarer finessed against East and went down *two* when West produced the ♣Q and a Spade winner.

When this deal was played in a local club duplicate game, most Declarers made 12 tricks ... a few went down one when they misguessed Clubs ... but only one Declarer was expert enough to ruff two Diamonds, get a perfect count on the distribution, and then go down two. How expert were *you* on this deal?

#100 –

MAXIMUM DAMAGE

	♠ J96 ♥ Q876 ♦ A4 ♣ Q643	
♠ AT32 ♥ 5 ♦ JT962 ♣ JT9	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 875 ♥ A432 ♦ KQ83 ♣ 75
	♠ KQ4 ♥ KJT9 ♦ 75 ♣ AK82	

Both Vulnerable

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

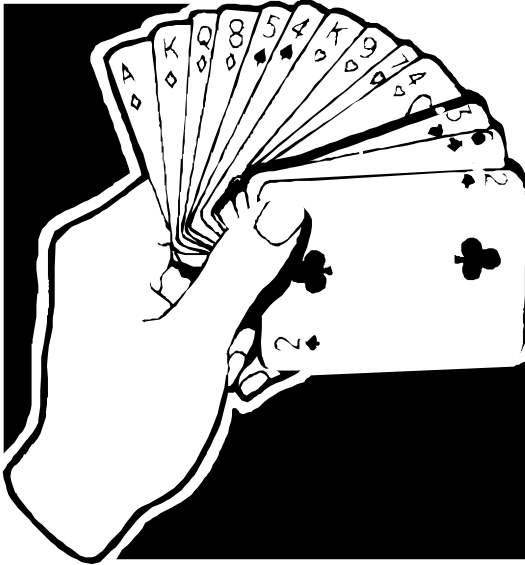
The defense will score the ♠A, ♥A and a Diamond trick for sure, but the rest of the hand looks solid for Declarer. The only hope for the defense is that the 4-1 trump split will prove awkward for Declarer. How can East inflict maximum damage and set 4♥?

West's opening lead is the ♦J, won in Dummy. At this point the defense's strategy is to lead Diamonds at every opportunity, hoping that repeated ruffs by Declarer (or Dummy) will eventually set up a trump trick for East. At Trick 2, Declarer tackles trumps, and let's suppose that East grabs her Ace immediately, cashes a Diamond and continues the suit. Dummy ruffs that and plays a second round of trumps, getting the news of the 4-1 break. Now Declarer must delay drawing trumps while he knocks out the ♠A. When West is in he persists with Diamonds, again ruffed in Dummy. Now Declarer is home free, he simply crosses to hand with a Club, draws trumps and is left with nothing but black suit winners. Making 10 tricks.

East can do better than that. She must hold off with the Ace on the first round of trumps. And also on the second round! Now Declarer is done for. If he leads a third trump then East will finally take her Ace, after which repeated Diamond leads will set up a trump trick for East ... and if Declarer abandons trumps then East's small trump will score a Club ruff. Down one!

Nice defense by East, who will remember to say "Great opening lead, Partner!" The auction told West that Declarer was probably in a 4-4 fit and had a bad trump split in his future. So, West concluded that a forcing defense might be the best way to put Declarer's trump holding under pressure. Accordingly, he led his long Diamond suit, the only way to set the contract.

Upcoming tournaments:



Illinois Senior Olympics

Aug 27, 2019

Erins Pavillion

4965 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62703

East Peoria Sectional

Sep 13-15, 2019

Fon du Lac Park District Admin Center

201 Veteran's Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

