



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 4 – April, 2020



April Events

Bloomington-Normal Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:00AM:

ALL games cancelled due to COVID-19. Suggest online bridge.

Contact Lori Moore at 309-838-8085 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:

ALL games cancelled due to COVID-19. Suggest online bridge.

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner. All game results are posted online: <http://live.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 3/6/2020 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,143.12	Steve Babin
2	3,442.48	Zack Freehill
3	3,183.16	Eunice Patton
4	3,113.09	JoAnn Schroeder
5	2,604.44	Cindy Moore
6	2,295.03	Ann Schuyler
7	2,294.35	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,073.48	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,532.33	Jeff Furler
11	1,279.46	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,090.86	Steve Wulfers
15	995.47	Randall Motchan
16	830.65	Dave Freehill
17	663.18	Sallie Boge
18	646.03	Ray Dostal
19	532.46	Mary Tweedie
20	516.50	Mary Cralley
21	505.69	Fred Spitzzeri
22	428.30	John Cralley
23	334.77	Chris Zogg
24	314.06	Joyce Werner
25	301.00	Larry Egan

Other players:

12,796.70	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,444.86	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,296.42	John Seng-Champaign
4,028.29	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,258.51	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,686.70	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,653.91	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,587.63	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,525.12	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,386.13	John Maloney-Champaign
2,012.23	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,973.90	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,511.06	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,291.92	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,090.36	Wes Seitz-Champaign
904.05	Bill Strauss-Urbana
762.10	Carole Miller-Champaign
676.06	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
651.33	Bill Thompson-Champaign
639.12	Melda Richardson-California
567.74	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
476.96	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
431.71	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
363.83	John Ford-Harvard,MA
323.59	Connie Tucker-Champaign
321.17	Ron Sinn-Peoria



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#1 –

The matchpoint scoring used in most pairs games rewards the highest plus score. This hand shows how important it is to find the overtricks.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 19-23	-	-	-	1♠
Vul E/W	Pass	2♦	3♥	3♣
	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 8632 ♥ 97 ♦ J97 ♣ J1073	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 75 ♥ AK10 ♦ Q6432 ♣ AK8 ♠ K ♥ QJ65432 ♦ A1085 ♣ 9 ♠ AQJ1094 ♥ 8 ♦ K ♣ Q6542
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Bidding: North's 2♦ response was game forcing. East intervened with a preemptive heart bid and South rebid his strong spade suit. North made a slam try by cue bidding hearts, but South settled for the spade game.

Play: West led the nine of hearts to dummy's ace. At trick two declarer discarded his diamond on the king of hearts and then led a trump. He was pleased to see the king appear and since the contract was safe, he went after overtricks. Rather than rely on the clubs dividing 3-2, declarer cashed the AK and watched as East discarded a heart. Now it was safe to play two more rounds of clubs ruffing dummy. He ruffed a diamond to his hand and drew trumps. Scoring all thirteen tricks meant a top board. Apparently, after the spade king popped up the other declarers drew trumps but later had to lose a club trick.


Some N/S pairs sniffed at slam but when they found they were off two key cards (king of spades and ace diamonds), they stopped in 5♣.

#2 –

The opening lead is very important and often made with little assurance of its success. In addition to memorizing the tables that show the proper card to lead from different honor combinations, the auction can be of great help. In this hand, West listened and learned.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 19-24	-	1♠	Pass	2♥
Vul E/W	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
	Pass			

♠ 74		♠ 105
♥ 97		♥ J6
♦ AQ43		♦ J108765
♣ AJ865		♣ 1093

♠ Q86
♥ AKQ1084
♦ 9
♣ K42

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

Play: Expecting a strong spade suit in dummy, West led the ace of clubs. After seeing dummy, West quickly cashed his other ace. At other tables, the West defender made a passive heart or spade lead and those declarers drew trumps and soon had twelve tricks.

It's helpful to remember that in a game scored by matchpoints, your goal as a defender is to take the maximum number of tricks. In team games and at rubber bridge, your goal is to defeat the contract.

#3 –

In an event scored by Matchpoints, the largest plus score is rewarded no matter the margin. This of course places a great deal of importance on overtricks. This hand shows the benefit that sometimes occurs when playing in a 4-4 trump fit.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<p>Hand 19-25</p> <p>Vul E/W</p> <p>♠ J4 ♥ 643 ♦ K2 ♣ KQ9732</p>	<p>♠ K73 ♥ J1087 ♦ Q1093 ♣ 103</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p>♠ AQ1092 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ J6 ♣ A5</p>	<p>♠ 865 ♥ 95 ♦ A8754 ♣ 864</p>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass			
West	North	East	South																				
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠																				
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥																				
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass																				
Pass																							

Bidding: With a minimum raise North was reluctant to accept his partner's game try, but he wanted to show the 4-card heart support.

Play: West led the king of clubs and declarer counted only three losers: two diamonds and one club. He won the ace of clubs and then drew trumps. Next, he played spades discarding the remaining club from dummy. He was now able to trump his last club in dummy for the overtrick.

Those who played in the 5-3 spade suit had to lose two diamonds and a club.

When the bidding is over and the opening lead is made, sometimes you simply need some good luck. This declarer needed a lot of it.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 19-26	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Vul N/S	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
	Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 107		♠ 65
♥ KQ2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥ J65
♦ 973		♦ A765
♣ 108542		♣ J763

♠ AKJ943
♥ A874
♦ Q2
♣ K

Bidding: After North rebid 1NT, South used the New Minor Forcing convention to uncover the spade fit. South knew they were behind in the match, so he next checked on keycards (4 aces + spade King). North showed one keycard so South bid the slam.

Play: First the bad luck hit...West led the king of hearts. Any other lead and the slam would be cold. Declarer counted two heart losers along with the ace of diamonds. Hoping for the best, he won the ace of hearts followed by the spade ace, the king of clubs, and a low spade to dummy's queen. The 2-2 trump division was lucky break number one. Next, he discarded his two diamonds on the AQ of clubs. Then he led the king of diamonds and ruffed when East played the ace. This was lucky break number two. He led a low spade to dummy's eight followed by the jack of diamonds discarding a heart. When he next played the ten of diamonds, he discarded another heart and saw the nine fall on his left. The eight of diamonds took care of his last heart and he had all thirteen tricks. The overtrick was lucky break number three.

At the other table, N/S stopped at 4♠. This West also led the king of hearts and declarer simply claimed eleven tricks conceding one diamond and one heart. This was a swing of thirteen IMPs.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2019 & 2020 only

2020/1/6	75.00%	Rod Ruder & Doug Lamb(99ers)
2019/11/23	70.09%	Chris Benson & John Seng
2019/11/9	71.43%	Sallie Boge & Kirk Kimmel
2019/9/23	83.33%	Gary Kemp & Bob Bray(99ers)
2019/9/19	71.00%	Hank Hoffman & Zach Freehill
2019/9/18	78.88%	Kay Marvin & Bob Clay(499ers)
2019/9/16	71.88%	Gary Kemp & Bob Bray(99ers)
2019/8/30	72.32%	Margaret Hansel & Steve Babin
2019/8/13	76.85%	Darryl Bremner & Mike Tomlianovich(Clinton pairs)
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)

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BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#129 – SENDING A MESSAGE

	♠ A ♥ T94 ♦ QJT63 ♣ KJT4	
	<i>North</i>	
♠ 9872 ♥ J62 ♦ A ♣ Q9865	<i>West East</i>	♠ 53 ♥ KQ875 ♦ 754 ♣ A32
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ KQJT64 ♥ A3 ♦ K982 ♣ 7	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

		1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sometimes the winning defense is obvious to one defender but not to the other, and in such cases it behooves the defender who is in the know to help out Partner as much as possible. Today's West missed such an opportunity.

Against 4♠, West led the ♦A. He shifted to the Heart Two and East's Queen was taken by Declarer's Ace. At this point

Declarer was home free if only she could draw trumps, but there were transportation problems. After playing a Spade to Dummy's Ace, she had no fast way back to hand to draw the remaining trumps, so she exited with a Heart, won by East's King.

To West it was obvious that East should give him a Diamond ruff. But it wasn't obvious to East. No doubt he should have figured it out, but he had this fixed idea in his head that West had led a Diamond from AKx or AKxx. So, seeing no rush for the defense to cash its winners, East exited with a Heart. Declarer gratefully ruffed that, drew trumps, pitched the Club loser on the Diamonds, and claimed 11 tricks.

That was not an impressive performance by East but West could have made things crystal clear. That's right, when the second round of Hearts was played, West should have dumped his Heart Jack under East's King! This clever play means that Dummy's Heart Ten is now good, and therefore a Heart return is most definitely not required. The fog lifts, East now knows what to do and the defense continues: Diamond ruff, Club to the Ace, Diamond ruff. Down two!

#130 – PERILOUSLY HIGH

	♠ T2 ♥ JT43 ♦ KJ93 ♣ T95	
♠ K9 ♥ K6 ♦ Q854 ♣ AQ764	North West East Declarer	♠ 87643 ♥ 72 ♦ A72 ♣ J32
	♠ AQJ5 ♥ AQ985 ♦ T6 ♣ K8	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South's game-try got N-S perilously high, and with the Clubs badly placed, and with both major suit finesses destined to lose, it seemed that 3♥ would be going down one. But, of course, one way to avoid losing finesses is simply not to take them.

Against 3♥, West started with a low Diamond, low from Dummy, won by East's Ace. Now the defense played Clubs

and Declarer ruffed the third round. Pausing to take stock, Declarer reflected upon the auction. West had made a vulnerable two-level overcall and probably had both major suit Kings. How about East? He had shown up with the ♦A and the ♣J, surely if he had an additional King he would have raised to 3♣. Yes, all the signs were that both major suit finesses would fail.

So, trusting her judgment, Declarer decided to play West for a singleton or doubleton Heart King. After ruffing the third Club she plunked down the ♥A, but West did not oblige with a singleton King. Next, Declarer removed West's safe exit cards by finessing the ♦J, cashing Dummy's ♦K and ruffing a Diamond. Now, when Declarer exited with a trump, West was end-played. Upon winning his ♥K West had the unpleasant choice of leading away from the ♠K, or conceding a ruff and discard by leading a Club.

A strange hand! Declarer had potential losers in both majors but declined to take the finesses ... but she *did* take the Diamond finesse when there were no remaining losers in the suit!

Post Script: West missed a chance to spoil Declarer's fun. After the defense takes the ♦A and two Clubs, if West reverts to Diamonds then Declarer can no longer extract all of West's exit cards and will be down one.

#131 – A TALE OF TWO SUITS

	♠ AQ ♥ A72 ♦ 9432 ♣ 6542	
♠ T8652 ♥ K6 ♦ A876 ♣ AJ	North West East Declarer	♠ 9743 ♥ 9543 ♦ Q ♣ T973
	♠ KJ ♥ QJT8 ♦ KJT5 ♣ KQ8	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

1NT Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass

Thanks in large part to the horrible Spade duplication (where ten HCP bring in two measly tricks), 3NT needs some luck. And, after the opening lead of the Spade Five, 3NT also requires careful play in Diamonds and Hearts. Can you make nine tricks?

Your best chance for nine tricks is to score four Hearts and three Diamonds. How do you play the Diamonds? Yes, you must take the tiny precaution of leading a *low* Diamond from the board. The trap to be avoided is running the Nine, that would be fatal in the actual case where East has the singleton Queen and where West's spots would prevent the suit from running. So, Dummy's ♠Q wins the opening lead, and a low Diamond is led, to the Queen, King and Ace.

West returns the Spade Two, again won on the board. You get back to hand with a Diamond (East pitching a Club), but refrain from cashing the two other Diamond winners, they may provide some useful back and forth later in the play. Instead, you lead the ♥Q, covered by the King and Ace. Back to hand with the ♥J, both defenders following, but neither dropping the all-important Nine.

Where is that Nine? You don't know for sure, so you will go with the odds. West's opening lead was the Five, and he later played the Two, so he appears to have started with a minimum of five Spades. West also started with four Diamonds, that's nine of his cards accounted for. By contrast, East started with a total of only five cards in those suits. Clearly, East has more room in her hand for Hearts, and the odds tell you to finesse against East for the Heart Nine rather than to play for the drop. So, you cash the Diamond Ten, cross to Dummy's carefully preserved Nine, and finesse the Heart Eight. Nine well-earned tricks!

#132 – WORST-CASE SCENARIO

	♠ AK82 ♥ 952 ♦ Q5 ♣ QJ42	
♠ J6 ♥ QT87 ♦ T9873 ♣ A7	North West East Declarer	♠ QT943 ♥ KJ ♦ 6 ♣ K9865
	♠ 75 ♥ A643 ♦ AKJ42 ♣ T3	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Put yourself in Declarer's seat, with only the N-S hands in view. West leads the Heart Seven, East plays the King. Looks like two Spades, a Heart and five Diamonds will get you to eight. What can possibly go wrong?

Many Declarers would jump right in, grabbing the ♥A, and rattling off the Diamonds. But, as it happens, they don't rattle and the 5-1 split derails the contract. Declarer cannot cash

four Diamonds, that would set up the defense's sixth trick ... and if he cashes only three Diamonds there is no way to come to eight tricks.

When things look easy, Declarer is advised to consider the worst-case scenario. In this case it is a bad Diamond break, giving Declarer only seven top tricks. Can Declarer do something about that? Yes, before going all-in with the Diamond suit, Declarer can hedge his bets by playing Clubs first, building a trick there just in case the Diamonds misbehave. The defense can take their three Hearts and two Clubs but that is all they get. Did you play on Clubs before Diamonds? Well done if you did!

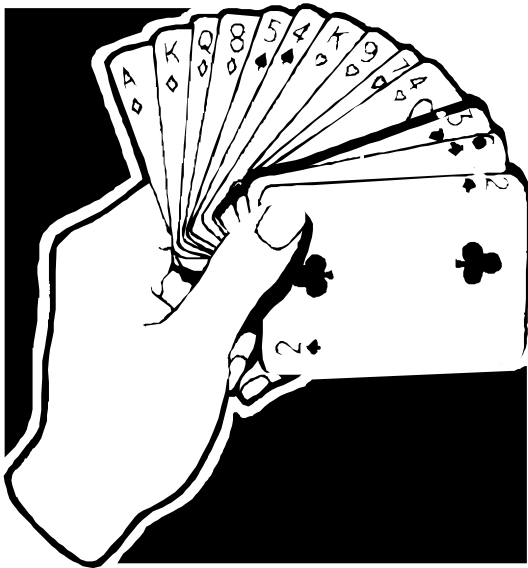
One more point. Did you win the Heart at Trick 1? Or did you duck, planning to win the second Heart, in case the suit was 5-1? It's safe to win the first trick, the Hearts cannot be 5-1. East played the King, so he denies the Queen and cannot have five in the suit ... and if West had QJT87 he would no doubt have led the Queen. So, it's OK to win the first trick and play on Clubs, safe in the knowledge that the defense cannot cash six tricks. If you cautiously ducked the first Heart then it would be just your luck for the defense to find the killing Spade shift.

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Upcoming tournaments:



District 8 GNT

May 2-3, 2020

Springfield, IL

Illini Regional

May 19-25, 2020

Holiday Inn

101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, IL

