



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 5 – May, 2020



May 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. Please play at Bridge Base Online(BBO) at these times:

Mondays, 12:10pm – open pairs
Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 299ers only pairs
Thursdays, 12:10pm – 99ers only pairs
Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs
Saturdays, 12:10pm – open pairs

Contact Lori Moore at 309-838-8085 for more information.

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. Please play at Bridge Base Online(BBO) at these times:

Mondays, 12:10pm – open pairs
Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 299ers only pairs
Thursdays, 12:10pm – 99ers only pairs
Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs
Saturdays, 12:10pm – open pairs

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for more information.

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 4/6/2020 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,144.80	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,185.11	Eunice Patton
4	3,127.19	JoAnn Schroeder
5	2,608.45	Cindy Moore
6	2,305.48	Ann Schuyler
7	2,295.86	Mike Tomlianovich
8	2,073.48	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,533.00	Jeff Furler
11	1,302.55	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,091.86	Steve Wulfers
15	995.47	Randall Motchan
16	830.65	Dave Freehill
17	675.21	Sallie Boge
18	647.78	Ray Dostal
19	550.47	Mary Tweedie
20	516.50	Mary Cralley
21	512.50	Fred Spitzzeri
22	428.30	John Cralley
23	334.77	Chris Zogg
24	314.06	Joyce Werner
25	301.00	Larry Eggan

Other players:

12,797.00	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,447.71	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,298.37	John Seng-Champaign
4,038.77	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,263.16	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,664.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,587.63	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,387.37	John Maloney-Champaign
2,020.00	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,973.90	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,511.06	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,292.84	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,096.16	Wes Seitz-Champaign
916.05	Bill Strauss-Urbana
762.10	Carole Miller-Champaign
676.92	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
651.33	Bill Thompson-Champaign
640.27	Melda Richardson-California
567.74	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
481.99	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
435.58	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
365.61	John Ford-Harvard,MA
330.29	Connie Tucker-Champaign
325.28	Ron Sinn-Peoria



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#1 –

Bidding has become so much more sophisticated over the past few decades. There are so many tools out there to help you reach the maximum contract. This North-South pair used some of these conventions to bid a grand slam.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-27	♠ 7	-	-	-	2NT
	♥ AJ98542	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Vul E/W	♦ AQ2	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
	♣ 74	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
♠ J82	♠ Q106543	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
♥ 103	♥ 6	Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
♦ 103	♦ 875	Pass			
♣ KQJ982	♣ 653	Pass			
	♠ AK9				
	♥ KQ7				
	♦ KJ964				
	♣ A10				


Bidding: South's 2NT opening bid showed 20-21 high card points and North's thoughts went immediately to a grand slam. First, he used the Texas Transfer convention to have the lead come up to the strong hand and then he launched Roman Keycard Blackwood. South showed three keycards with his response and next North asked about the heart queen. South acknowledged possession of the lady along with the king of spades. The 5NT bid asked if South had any other king and the diamond honor was the answer. North confidently bid the grand slam.

Play: West led the king of clubs and declarer quickly claimed all thirteen tricks. At the other table in this team game, the N/S pair stopped in 6♥ and lost eleven IMPs.

#2 –

When choosing your opening lead against a suit contract, a singleton in a side suit is often effective. However, as this hand shows, it's sometimes best to lead a long suit.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand 19-28	♠ 10 ♥ 9654		West	North	East	South
Vul E/W	♦ Q53 ♣ AK743		-	-	-	1♠
			Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠
			Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
			Pass			
♠ 98532 ♥ AQ82 ♦ 10 ♣ J86		♠ 6 ♥ J1073 ♦ AJ762 ♣ Q92				
	♠ AKQJ74 ♥ K ♦ K984 ♣ 105					

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

Play: At this table, West led the ten of diamonds to the queen and ace. East returned the deuce of diamonds to declarer's eight ruffed by West. He got out with a low club to dummy's ace. Now declarer could play the top four trumps followed by a club to dummy. Declarer then led a low diamond to his nine and conceded a heart. He lost only one heart, one diamond, and a diamond ruff.

At the other table this West knew that with length in the trump suit, it is often better to make declarer shorten his trumps. So, he started by leading the ace of hearts. He continued the suit and declarer trumped. Declarer hoped to succeed by losing only one heart and two diamonds. However, after leading two top trumps, he knew he was in trouble. He switched to a low diamond to the queen that was won by the ace. Another heart forced declarer to ruff again. The contract eventually failed by two tricks when declarer won only six spades and two clubs.

At bridge, you defend approximately half of the time so good communication with your partner is essential. In this hand, the message was sent but not received.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-29	♠ KJ53	1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
	♥ 1065	3♣	3♠	Pass	Pass
Vul E/W	♦ AK6	Pass			
	♣ 632				

♠ Q		♠ 86
♥ AKJ94	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥ Q87
♦ 943		♦ QJ1072
♣ AQ107		♣ 985
	♠ A109742	
	♥ 32	
	♦ 85	
	♣ KJ4	

Bidding: In a contested auction, South became declarer.

Play: West led the ace of hearts and East encouraged with the eight. West continued with the king and a third heart ruffed by declarer. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds and then eliminated diamonds by ruffing the third round. Now he went back to dummy with a trump to lead a low club to his jack. West won the queen but with the red suits gone, he had to lead another club or concede a ruff/sluff. Declarer made his contract losing two hearts and two clubs.

To defeat this contract, West must play his partner for the queen of hearts. A low heart at trick two will allow East to win and play a club through declarer's hand. West will win and exit with the king of hearts to await two more club tricks.

A common technique by declarer is to eliminate the side suits and then throw an opponent into the lead. If executed properly, the only remaining play for the defender will benefit declarer. However, it is often possible for the other defender to prevent this.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-30	♠ A1097	-	-	-	1♠
	♥ 6	2♥	3♥	4♥	4♠
Vul None	♦ 8763	5♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
	♣ AJ96	Pass			
♠ Q86					
♥ AQ1075					
♦ KQ105					
♣ 3					
	♠ 5				
	♥ KJ9432				
	♦ 42				
	♣ 10542				
	♠ KJ432				
	♥ 8				
	♦ AJ9				
	♣ KQ87				

Bidding: In a hotly contested auction, South became declarer. North’s cue bid invited game in spades.

Play: West led his singleton club won by declarer. With so much bidding, declarer didn’t expect the opponents’ hands to be flat. If West had a singleton club, it was likely he held some length in spades, so declarer started with the king of spades. Next, he led a low one to dummy’s ten. After pulling the last trump, declarer played the rest of the clubs ending in dummy. Now a heart was led from dummy and East erred by playing a low one. West won the ten but had to return a diamond or concede a ruff/sluff. West led the king of diamonds, but declarer simply ducked. Now another diamond gave declarer his game-going trick. He lost only one heart and one diamond.

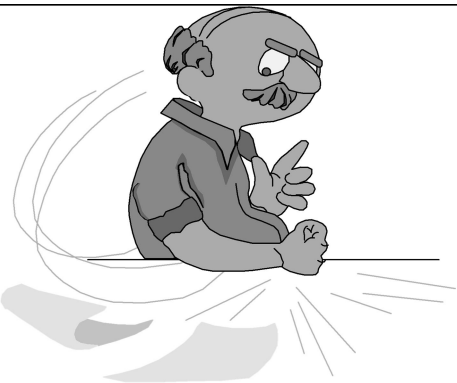
To avoid his partner being “end-played”, it was necessary for East to play the king of hearts. He can then lead a diamond and declarer must lose two diamond tricks.



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)

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!



Remember: All Bloomington-Normal duplicate events adhere to the ACBL's zero tolerance for unacceptable behavior. Do NOT let this person's conduct rub off on you!!

TENTH ANNUAL ADULT BRIDGE CAMP

Tuesday, October 20-Friday, October 23, 2020
LAKE WILLIAMSON CHRISTIAN CENTER
CARLINVILLE, IL



Cards on the table - hands on classes for the 0-199er



Earn silver points at sanctioned pair and team games

CAMP FEE: single/\$380 - double/\$320 - Includes eight meals and tournament fees -
Non-ACBL members can join for \$7.99 for a one-month temporary membership.

DEPOSIT: Mail your \$60 deposit check payable to YBEO with the **BOTTOM HALF**
of this form to: Mary Shaw 17255 Cottonwood Ln. Carlinville, IL 62626

CHECK-IN: 12:45-1:30pm, Tuesday, Oct.20 - Supper @ 5:30pm - A confirmation email
will be sent upon receipt of your registration. A detailed advance memo will be emailed
about two weeks prior to camp.

SCHEDULE: TENTATIVE schedule on reverse side or page two

"KEEP THE NEURONS FIRING"

CAMPER NAME: _____ **single//double**

ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE:** _____

EMAIL: _____ **ACBL#** _____ **POINTS** _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ **PHONE:** _____

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: _____

PARTNER'S NAME: _____

LIST TWO ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON: _____

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#133 –THE ONLY CARD

	♠ KT954 ♥ 2 ♦ QJ653 ♣ 94	
♠ QJ87 ♥ Q6 ♦ KT82 ♣ KQJ	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 62 ♥ J87 ♦ A974 ♣ T872
	♠ A3 ♥ AKT9543 ♦ ♣ A653	

Both Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♥		Dbl	1♠	Pass
4♥		Pass	Pass	Pass

You are West, looking at the N-W hands, there must be something on your breakfast table to cover the S-E hands. Against 4♥ you lead the ♠K, and that holds the trick, Partner playing the Two. Now, at Trick 2, there is only one card in your hand that will defeat this contract. What is it?

Before you play to Trick 2, let's analyze Trick 1. Partner played the Two, and in standard carding methods that is discouraging. In other words, Partner does not like the suit

and it is safe to assume that he does not have the Ace. So Declarer has the Ace, yet she did not win the trick. What is she up to? That's right, she would just love for you to continue with Clubs, allowing her to win the Ace and get a ruff in Dummy.

It goes against the grain to lead away from certain trump holdings, and leading from Qx has potential for blowing a trump trick. Nonetheless, stopping the ruff is paramount, so you bite the bullet and shift to a trump. But which one? Leading a low trump would deprive Declarer of a trick by stopping his Club ruff, but it might return the trick by destroying Partner's trump holding. Time to remove that diagonally placed (pre-syrup) waffle from your morning newspaper, and take a peek at the S-E hands.

Yes, at Trick 2, the only card in your hand that will beat the contract is the ♥Q! Not only does it deprive Declarer of his ruff in Dummy, but it also preserves Partner's natural trump trick. In the fullness of time the defense will score three Clubs and a Heart, and that is down one.

#134 – A SURPRISING DUCK

	♠ 8432 ♥ AJ43 ♦ J62 ♣ K2	
♠ KT76 ♥ 72 ♦ T9854 ♣ 63	North West East Declarer	♠ J9 ♥ T9865 ♦ 73 ♣ JT98
	♠ AQ5 ♥ KQ ♦ AKQ ♣ AQ754	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South's 2♣ bid was artificial and strong, and North's 2♦ was also artificial, showing a hand without a suit worth bidding. Then common sense took over, and N-S blasted into 6NT. Can you make 12 tricks? Be warned, this one's not easy!

West led the Diamond Ten and Declarer could count 11 top tricks. Where was the 12th? One possibility was the Spade finesse but that was only a 50% proposition and Declarer

knew that a 4-2 or 3-3 Club break was more likely. So Declarer's general plan was to unblock the ♥KQ, cross to the ♣K, cash Dummy's Heart winners (pitching Spades), and play on Clubs, hoping for a reasonable break in the suit.

But Declarer had neglected to think about the consequences of a bad *Heart* break. That's right, when Dummy's Heart winners were cashed the suit proved to be 5-2. Even worse, it turned out that the defender with the long Hearts also had the long Clubs. Declarer could set up his 12th trick alright, but the defense scored a Heart and a Club first. Down one!

We'll admit that Declarer was most unlucky with that line of play, it only failed because Hearts were 5-2, Clubs were not 3-3, *and* the long Hearts and long Clubs were in the same hand. But good players make their own luck and Declarer had a most surprising play at his disposal. Remember, he had won the opening Diamond lead, and unblocked the ♥KQ. Now at Trick 4 he ducks a Club! See the difference? Yes, the Club trick that he could afford to lose is now lost before Dummy's Hearts have been cashed (in other words, before East's long Heart has become a winner). That's a difficult play to find at the bridge table, did you find it at your breakfast table?

#135 – HELPING PARTNER

	♠ KT6 ♥ 4 ♦ 75 ♣ T876542	
♠ 853 ♥ 983 ♦ JT943 ♣ J3	<i>North</i>	♠ AQJ42 ♥ 762 ♦ Q86 ♣ K9
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ 97 ♥ AKQJT5 ♦ AK2 ♣ AQ	

Both Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
				1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass	
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	

3NT is cold, but our South was in 4♥. That would have succeeded against some E-W pairs, but not against this E-W. Watch how West wakes up her partner and persuades him to make the right play in Diamonds.

West leads a Spade, low from Dummy, won by East's Jack. East looks at Dummy and realizes that it's useless for Declarer's purposes. Well, almost! There is that doubleton

Diamond, a potential ruffing value if Declarer happens to have ♦AKx. So, East promptly shifts to a trump, snuffing out that threat.

Declarer still has four potential losers, with no way of reaching Dummy for the Club finesse. He may decide that the best chance now is to play for East to have Qxx in Diamonds. So he draws trumps, and plays ♦AK and a low Diamond, hoping to throw in East. If the plan works then East will be forced to give Declarer his 10th trick in one of the black suits. But our E-W are made of sterner stuff and you can be sure that East will jettison his ♦Q under the Ace or the King, allowing West to win the third Diamond trick. You can also be sure that West will play the ♦J on the first round of Diamonds. That says (a) I can afford to play the Jack, (b) I don't have the Queen, if I did I could have afforded to play it, (c) I have the Ten, otherwise I could not afford the Jack. That considerate play by West should persuade even the sleepest East to dump the Queen.

Here's a little twist. If those defenders are so confoundedly smart, then most of the time they will be able to arrange for West to win the third Diamond. That being so, Declarer might try a swindle. Look at what happens if, instead of playing Diamonds, Declarer cashes the ♣A. Now, a clued-in East will be seriously tempted to dump the ♣K, playing Declarer to hold ♦AKJ and ♣AJ!

#136 – FROZEN SUIT

	♠ 542 ♥ AQ87 ♦ AK7 ♣ T32	
♠ QT83 ♥ 64 ♦ QJ98 ♣ Q98	<i>North</i>	♠ J96 ♥ 932 ♦ T54 ♣ K764
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ AK7 ♥ KJT5 ♦ 632 ♣ AJ5	

Both Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	Pass		2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass		4♥	Pass
	Pass	Pass		

3NT would have been an easy contract but South found herself in 4♥, where there are the same nine winners. N-S have mirror distributions, so there are no ruffs to add to that total. Where is the 10th trick?

This deal is all about the Club suit. On the lie of the cards, if Declarer breaks open the suit, she will score just the Ace and will lose the other two tricks. But if the defense breaks open

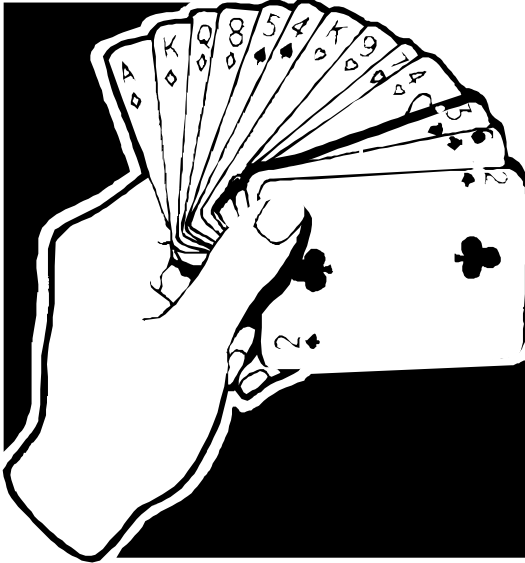
the suit then Declarer will make two tricks. In other words, it's a frozen suit, and whoever plays Clubs first loses. But Declarer has the majority of the high cards and the trumps, let's see how she uses them to make the defense blink first.

West leads the ♦Q which is won in Dummy, and trumps are drawn in three rounds. Declarer avoids playing Clubs, of course, instead she cashes her Spade winners and her second Diamond winner, and exits with a Diamond. The defense can safely cash a Spade, but now they will be faced with unpleasant alternatives:

- *Either* they can play a Spade or a Diamond, giving Declarer a ruff and discard (one hand ruffs, the other discards a Club loser)
- *Or* they can break open the frozen Clubs and give up the 10th trick that way.

That line of play was not guaranteed to succeed. Imagine West with ♣KQx, and further suppose that East is able to win the third round of Spades and of Diamonds. Now, when Declarer exits a Diamond, East wins and fires a Club through, won by West. Back comes a Spade to East and another Club through, and that's down one. Declarer can avoid this grisly fate by ducking the opening Diamond lead (now East gets in only once and cannot lead Clubs twice), but that play will not be a great success if East is able to ruff the second round of Diamonds.

Upcoming tournaments:



**District 8 GNT
POSTPONED**

**Illini Regional
May 19-25, 2020**

Holiday Inn

101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, IL

