

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 7 – July, 2020



July 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, 11:50am – 99ers only pairs

Mondays, 12:10pm – open pairs

Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 499ers only pairs

Wednesdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Thursdays, 12:10pm – 299ers only pairs

Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Saturdays, 12:10pm – open pairs

Sundays, 6:50pm – mentee-mentor 2nd & 4th – open 1st-3rd-5th 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, 11:50am – 99ers only pairs

Mondays, 12:10pm – open pairs

Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 299ers only pairs

Wednesdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Thursdays, 12:10pm – 499ers only pairs

Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Saturdays, 12:10pm – open pairs

Sundays, 6:50pm – mentee-mentor 2nd & 4th – open 1st-3rd-5th 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.



The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 7/6/2020 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,177.52	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,214.94	Eunice Patton
4	3,202.40	JoAnn Schroeder
5	2,648.44	Cindy Moore
6	2,322.43	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,308.66	Ann Schuyler
8	2,089.55	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,537.55	Jeff Furler
11	1,327.33	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,115.51	Steve Wulfers
15	995.47	Randall Motchan
16	830.65	Dave Freehill
17	680.08	Sallie Boge
18	668.14	Ray Dostal
19	552.39	Mary Tweedie
20	540.11	Fred Spitzzeri
21	525.99	Mary Cralley
22	437.79	John Cralley
23	335.51	Chris Zogg
24	321.17	Joyce Werner
25	316.54	Larry Ziegler

Other players:

12,820.24	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,496.39	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,328.37	John Seng-Champaign
4,110.10	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,293.06	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,610.47	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,404.77	John Maloney-Champaign
2,064.88	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,973.90	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,531.06	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,301.12	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,120.51	Wes Seitz-Champaign
932.06	Bill Strauss-Urbana
762.10	Carole Miller-Champaign
689.62	Darryl Bremner-Canton
671.95	Bill Thompson-Champaign
660.72	Melda Richardson-California
592.51	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
488.00	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
459.58	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
389.95	John Ford-Harvard,MA
356.26	Ron Sinn-Peoria
344.94	Connie Tucker-Champaign



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#1 –

When declaring, the techniques of ruffing losers in dummy and establishing long suits for discards are well known. However, sometimes an important trick can come from a suit that is less than impressive.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-35	♠ 9874	Pass	1♦	2♣	2♥
	♥ AQ6	3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Vul E/W	♦ K10982	Pass			
	♣ A				
♠ Q106					
♥ J105					
♦ Q64					
♣ J982					
	♠ AK5				
	♥ 8				
	♦ J3				
	♣ K1076543				
	♠ J32				
	♥ K97432				
	♦ A75				
	♣ Q				

Bidding: After a competitive auction, South became the declarer in 4♥.

Play: West lead the deuce of clubs to dummy's ace. Declarer counted three spades to lose along with a possible diamond. At trick two, he led a spade. It didn't matter which opponent won the trick, if they returned a club, he would discard a loser and ruff in dummy. If they returned a diamond, declarer will play for split honors and not lose a diamond. So, E/W could only cash their spade winners or switch to trumps. East won and played a heart. Declarer won and led another spade. Eventually, declarer deposited his losing diamond on dummy's fourth spade. He lost only three spade tricks.

#2 –

Many new players feel drawing trumps is a task that should be completed as soon as possible. As this hand shows, sometimes it should be delayed.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-36	♠ A6	Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
	♥ Q1054	Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♠
Vul E/W	♦ 986	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♣ A862				

♠ 94		♠ J85
♥ J987	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥ A63
♦ K1043		♦ QJ7
♣ 754		♣ KQJ3
	♠ KQ10732	
	♥ K2	
	♦ A52	
	♣ 109	

Bidding: This was a routine auction to 2 ♠.

Play: West led the four of clubs and assuming trumps behaved, declarer counted four obvious losers: 1 heart, 2 diamonds, and 1 club. The contract was safe, but this was a pairs event where overtricks are important, so he looked for an extra trick. The auction marked East with most of the missing honor cards, but perhaps not the jack of hearts. After winning the ace of clubs, declarer led a low heart to his king. Next, he led his remaining heart to dummy's ten. East won the ace and declarer was able to discard a diamond loser on the queen of hearts.

Note this heart play must be done before leading trumps because the ace of spades was the only remaining entry to dummy. Several of the declarer first drew trumps and had to settle for nine tricks. The overtrick scored by this declarer resulted in a good score.

#3 –

The Unusual Notrump convention was introduced by Al Roth in 1948. This bid is used in a competitive auction to show a two-suited hand. The hand may be weak suggesting a sacrifice or, as in this example, contain extra values. While it is frequently abused and mis-used, the convention can be an effective bidding tool.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-37	♠ A2	1♣	2NT	4♣	5♦
	♥ 2	Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Vul N/S	♦ AJ1098	Pass			
	♣ AK1072				
♠ KQ943					
♥ AKJ5					
♦ 75					
♣ 96					
	♠ J10876				
	♥ 943				
	♦ 32				
	♣ 854				
	♠ 5				
	♥ Q10876				
	♦ KQ64				
	♣ QJ3				

Bidding: North's jump to 2NT showed a two-suited hand with the minors. East preempted to 4♣ and South with values in both minor suits bid 5♦. With extras, North bid the slam.

Play: West led the ace of hearts and declarer soon claimed twelve tricks for +1370. In a small, local game most N/S pairs stopped in 5♦ making an overtrick for +620, while others doubled 4♣ defeating it three tricks for +500.

#4 –

The cue bid is a versatile weapon that can be used in many ways. In this hand, it first told and then it asked.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-38	♠ K63	-	-	-	1♣
	♥ 83	1♥	2♥	Pass	3♣
Vul N/S	♦ AK7	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
	♣ A10876	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ QJ95	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>				
♥ AQ10942					
♦ J104					
♣					
	♠ A87				
	♥ K65				
	♦ 2				
	♣ KQJ542				
	♠ 1042				
	♥ J7				
	♦ Q98653				
	♣ 93				

Bidding: North cue bid hearts to show a club raise with ten or more support points. South rebid his suit to show a minimum hand. Next, North cue bid hearts again this time asking if South held a stopper in the suit. South's 3NT bid ended the auction.

Play: West led the queen of spades won by declarer with the ace. Declarer had ten tricks and in the end game, attempted to throw West into the lead for a heart return. But West unblocked his spade honors, and this held declarer to ten tricks and +630. Those in 3NT who received a heart lead came away with one more trick and +660. Those who forgot it was a pairs game scored by matchpoints bid to 5♣ for only +600.

Dear Future Bridge Camper,

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 the residential youth bridge camp in Carlinville is being cancelled. We are however going to have a virtual camp. And the good news is this camp will be open to a wider age range! Youth ages 9 to 18 (or 19 if just graduated from high school) are welcome to register!

The virtual camp will consist of a two hour bridge lesson on Monday through Friday, June 22-26 from 2 to 4 p.m. CDT. and two hour tournaments from 7 to 9 p.m. CDT June 22-June 25, master points will be awarded. The lessons will be a combination of Zoom conferencing and playing at teaching tables on BBO. The tournament will also be on BBO and open only to those students registered in the camp.

The cost for the entire camp, lessons and tournaments, is \$50. Your registration and \$50 payment is due by June 12. To register all we need is the camper's name and dob, BBO user name, email you wish us to use, and of course the \$50. It would also be helpful if we knew the class level (see below) that the camper thinks they fit into. Information can be emailed to registrar@bridgeisfun.org or sent by snail mail along with the \$50 check to YBEO, PO BOX 232, Greenwood, MO 64034-0232. If you wish to pay via paypal you can do so by sending to a friend to kathy@wannaplaybridge.com, please note YBEO in the notes when paying via Paypal.

If signing up for the virtual camp, please let us know the camper's BBO user name as this will be required. Once you sign up, we will send you a link for the Zoom portion of the class and we may also send "hand-outs" of teaching material. All of this will be sent via email in the week before the camp starts, so please make sure we know the email you want us to use for these communications.

The teachers for these classes will be the same as last year- Phyllis will teach the beginners; Kathy will teach the intermediate class with more emphasis on bidding than on play, but there will be plenty of practice playing each deal after we bid them; Chris will teach the advanced class with likely more emphasis on play and defense, though still plenty of talk about bidding.

Please forward this information to any friends you think might be interested as we would love to get some more campers and use this to help keep us all connected and looking forward to playing bridge face to face at next summer's bridge camp.

**Camp Registrar
Kathy Rolfe
Bridge is Fun**



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2019 & 2020 only

2020/6/22	71.99%	Cindy Moore & Mike Tomlianovich
2020/4/23	70.16%	Larry Ziegler & Ray Dostal
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)

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.

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: _____

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE MAY BE ADJUSTED AT DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION

SO MUCH TO LEARN - SO LITTLE TIME

Tues. October 20 12:45-1:30 pm Check-in

2:00 pm Get acquainted/Lesson/Supervised Play

5:00 pm Walk around facility

5:30-6:15 pm Supper

6:30 pm Pairs Tournament

Wed. October 21 8:15 am Breakfast

Thurs. October 23 9:00 am-10:15 am Lesson/Hand Discussion

10:20 am-12:20 am Swiss Tournament

12:30 pm-1:15 pm Lunch

1:20 pm-2:30 pm Lesson

2:45 pm-5:00 pm Pairs Tournament

6:15 pm Supper

7:00 pm Lesson/Practice Hands

Fri. October 23 8:15 am Breakfast

9:00 am Sanctioned Game or supervised play (per majority)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#141 – BACKING THE FAVORITE

	♠ Q4 ♥ K7 ♦ QJ7 ♣ KJT852	
♠ 5 ♥ 832 ♦ 986432 ♣ Q76	<i>North</i> West East Declarer	♠ J9876 ♥ T654 ♦ A ♣ 943
	♠ AKT32 ♥ AQJ9 ♦ KT5 ♣ A	

Both Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
			1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣		Pass
6NT	All Pass			

South wastes little time in reaching 6NT, West leads the Diamond Nine and, when Dummy goes down, Declarer can see just 11 top tricks. How would you go about getting the 12th trick?

One possibility is that one or other of the defenders has the doubleton ♣Q. If that doesn't work then you will have to fall

back on the Spades, and that's a suit which offers you a choice ... either play the Spades from the top, hoping that the Jack comes down in three rounds ... or cash the Queen and finesse the Ten. If you look at the Spade suit in isolation, it's a close call as to which line is better (playing for the drop is a slight favorite). But, as the play of the hand develops, watch how the odds change.

East wins that opening Diamond and a Heart is returned. You cash the remaining Hearts, then the ♣A, ♦K, ♦Q, and ♣K. The ♣Q does not fall on the play of the Clubs, so now it all comes down to the Spade suit. Is playing for the drop of the Jack still the slight favorite? Not at all! East showed up with one Diamond and four Hearts, and pitched a Spade and a Club when you played the Diamonds. That means he must have started out with three or four Clubs, so his original distribution must have been 5=4=1=3 or 4=4=1=4, there are no other possibilities. What does that tell us? That East started with more Spades than West and is therefore more likely to have the Jack. So the percentage pendulum has swung in favor of taking the Spade finesse. 12 tricks for those who did a little counting.

#142 – A MATTER OF ENTRIES

	♠ Q ♥ QJT95 ♦ A642 ♣ 865	
♠ KT9543 ♥ 862 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ2	North West East Declarer	♠ 876 ♥ K74 ♦ QJT8 ♣ Q74
	♠ AJ2 ♥ A3 ♦ K753 ♣ AT93	

N-S Vulnerable

South West North East

1NT 2♠ 3♥ Pass

3NT All Pass

West's frisky 2♠ overcall is brushed aside and South becomes Declarer in 3NT. West leads the Spade Ten, won in Dummy. There's a trap for the unwary on this deal, and today's Declarer fell right into it. But our readers won't, will they?

Dummy's ♠Q won the opening lead and Declarer could see that it was plain sailing to at least nine tricks, his minimum haul being two Spades, four Hearts, two Diamonds and a Club. Never one to turn up his nose at an overtrick or two, Declarer ran the ♥Q at Trick 2. It seemed like good news when that finesse won, but in fact Declarer had just bungled the contract. He crossed to the ♥A and, when the King did not fall he needed two entries to the board, one to knock out the ♥K, the other to enjoy the established Hearts. Alas, he had only one such entry, and was destined for an ignominious down two. Yes, the winning line was simple enough, Declarer must play the ♥A at Trick 2, then a low Heart to the board.

Now, let's replay the hand with the Heart King and Eight exchanged between the E-W hands. Let's say that, as before, Declarer goofs mightily by running the ♥Q at Trick 2. West must duck the trick! If West makes the mistake of grabbing his King then Declarer's misplay will go unpunished.

#143 – STRANGER THAN FICTION

	♠ A ♥ KQ42 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AJT32	
♠ KQT954 ♥ J5 ♦ 765 ♣ KQ	North West East Declarer	♠ 32 ♥ 9873 ♦ T ♣ 987654
	♠ J876 ♥ AT6 ♦ KQ9842 ♣	

Both Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
		1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Yes, it is true, some newspaper hands are works of fiction, and never actually happened. Others are factual reenactments. Which is this? It has to have happened in real life, we really couldn't make this stuff up.

The N-S auction went off the rails, thanks to conflicting views as to the meaning of the 3♠ and 4♥ bids. So, while the other

N-S pairs were luxuriating in their comfy Diamond slam and its 9-card fit, our South was laboring in the 4-3 Heart slam. West led the ♠K, won in Dummy. Declarer reasoned that, with Spade length on her left, East might well have four Hearts. With unerring inaccuracy, she finessed the Heart Ten, losing to West's Jack, after which West could have beaten the contract by leading the ♠Q, setting up a trump trick for East. But West did not know that Declarer started with only three Hearts (though Declarer's Heart play might have made him suspicious). So, after winning the ♥J, West got out with a trump.

Now what? Declarer could have prayed for 3-3 Hearts, hoping to scoot home with the aid of a Club ruff. But where was the fun in that, especially when there was the chance for a delicious swindle? Instead of taking the Club ruff, Declarer drew trumps and, leaving the ♣A an orphan in Dummy, she rattled off her Diamonds. Grimly holding on to the ♣KQ, West pitched away all his Spades, hoping that East held the ♠J. Thus was Declarer's foolish contract fulfilled, with the Spade Jack and Eight taking the last two tricks and Dummy's ♣A acting as no more than a decoy. Stranger than fiction, indeed.

#144 – NICE LEAD, PARTNER!

	♠ AK865 ♥ A6 ♦ 9753 ♣ 53	
♠ J43 ♥ QJT87 ♦ QJ ♣ KT8	North West East Declarer	♠ ♥ 54 ♦ KT8642 ♣ AJ642
	♠ QT972 ♥ K932 ♦ A ♣ Q97	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	5♠	All Pass

There are other ways to bid the North hand, but our North was obviously a paid-up member of the Bid-What-You-Think-You-Can-Make Club. East's 4NT showed the minors, then North pushed on to 5♠, in this case bidding what he *hoped* they could make.

As West, what would be your choice of opening lead? Outside of the trump suit, Declarer does not appear to have

an obvious source of tricks. West has the Hearts under control and East has long minors so, with no side-suits that can be set up, it's reasonable to assume that Declarer will be relying on ruffs to bolster his trick total. That's right, an opening trump lead seems to be called for.

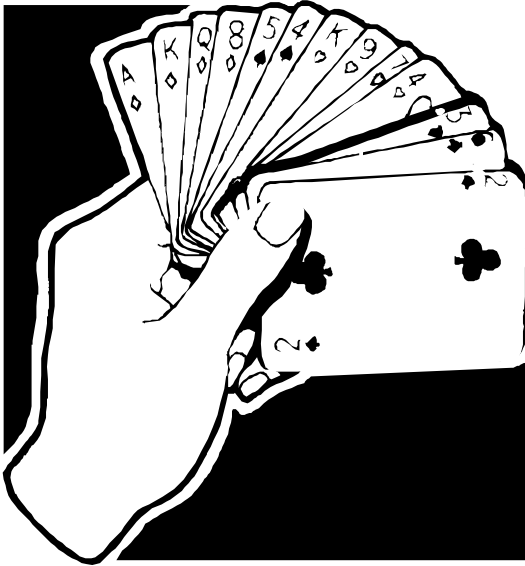
Over to Declarer. He can count five natural trump tricks, plus the ♥AK and ♦A. That's eight tricks and, to get to eleven, he needs three ruffs in one hand or the other. Of course, the trump lead and the 3-0 split put a dent in those hopes, but Declarer is not done yet. Ruffing three Diamonds in hand won't work, that will run into an overruff by West. So Declarer's plan is to ruff two Hearts and a Club in Dummy.

The opening trump lead is won in Dummy, and that is followed by ♥A, ♥K, and a Heart ruff. Now a Club is led from Dummy, East ducks and Declarer's Queen is taken by the King. Back comes another trump, won in hand by Declarer, who next ruffs his last Heart in Dummy. A second Club is led and, again, East must duck, hoping that West has the Ten, and can continue with another trump. East reasons that Declarer probably does not have the Ten (if he did, he would surely have finessed it on the first round), so she boldly ducks. West wins his Ten, and the third round of trumps is the one that dashes Declarer's hopes.

"Nice lead, Partner!"

"Nice Club ducks, Partner!"

Upcoming tournaments:



Illinois Senior Olympics

Aug 25, 2020, 1:00pm

SAVE THE DATE – LOCATION TBA

