

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 9 – September, 2020



September 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 – 199ers 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, 11:50am – 299ers only 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 – 199ers 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, 11:50am – 299ers only 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 8/6/2020 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,189.99	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,227.75	JoAnn Schroeder
4	3,220.99	Eunice Patton
5	2,664.64	Cindy Moore
6	2,333.98	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,309.49	Ann Schuyler
8	2,095.44	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,538.88	Jeff Furler
11	1,331.11	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,117.12	Steve Wulfers
15	995.47	Randall Motchan
16	830.65	Dave Freehill
17	684.61	Sallie Boge
18	673.11	Ray Dostal
19	557.39	Mary Tweedie
20	549.84	Fred Spitzzeri
21	530.08	Mary Cralley
22	441.97	John Cralley
23	335.51	Chris Zogg
24	322.34	Larry Ziegler
25	321.17	Joyce Werner

Other players:

12,839.50	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,513.46	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,348.22	John Seng-Champaign
4,139.00	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,301.05	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,618.00	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,411.80	John Maloney-Champaign
2,072.74	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,973.90	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,538.15	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,303.96	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,132.48	Wes Seitz-Champaign
932.06	Bill Strauss-Urbana
764.87	Carole Miller-Champaign
697.73	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
682.80	Bill Thompson-Champaign
662.72	Melda Richardson-California
595.40	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
497.25	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
468.90	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
395.33	John Ford-Harvard,MA
364.00	Ron Sinn-Peoria
345.84	Connie Tucker-Champaign



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#1 –

Minor suit slams can be difficult to bid. A major factor is the reluctance to bid past 3NT which is often the best contract in an event scored by matchpoints.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 19-43	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Vul N/S	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
♠ K	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣
♥ Q7654	Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
♦ K98	Pass			
♣ 7543	Pass			
♠ J10				
♥ AKJ2				
♦ A54				
♣ AQJ10				
♠ Q987542				
♥ 1098				
♦ 7				
♣ 98				
♠ A63				
♥ 3				
♦ QJ10632				
♣ K62				

Bidding: After North's 2NT opening bid, South felt his hand was good enough to invite but not insist on slam in diamonds. His 3♣ bid was a relay to 3NT. The 4♦ rebid showed 6+ diamonds and a good hand. With no interest, North had the option of signing off with 4NT but here he cooperated by cue bidding hearts. South replied with a spade cue bid and North bid the diamond slam.

Play: West led a low club taken by declarer's king. When the diamond finesse succeeded, declarer had all thirteen tricks. Most of the N/S pairs stopped in 3NT finding the same thirteen tricks.

The value of being able to stop in 4NT should not be underestimated. Ending in five of a minor in a pairs event will often result in a poor score.

#2 -

While it usually pays to be an aggressive bidder, there is often a price for your action. A strong declarer will remember the auction and use the information.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-44	♠ K632	-	-	-	1 ♠
	♥ 852	Pass	2NT	3 ♥	4 ♣
Vul N/S	♦ AK10	Pass	4♦	Pass	4 ♥
	♣ K103	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
♠ Q54		Pass			
♥ J94		Pass			
♦ QJ542					
♣ 84					

	♠ 8
	♥ AKQ1076
	♦ 963
	♣ 762

	♠ AJ1097
	♥ 3
	♦ 87
	♣ AQJ95

Bidding: North's 2NT bid was a game-forcing spade raise. East boldly bid his heart suit and then after North-South each cue bid, they stopped in game.

Play: West led the four of hearts and declarer ruffed the second round. With no other input declarer would have played the top two spades hoping the suit would divide 2-2. However, the 3♥ overcall meant there were a lot of hearts in the East hand, so he decided it was a better idea to play West for spade length. At trick three he cashed the spade ace followed by the jack. When this won the trick, he quickly claimed twelve tricks.

At a small, local game the other East players weren't brave enough to overcall in such a strong auction. Those declarers recorded only eleven tricks when they played the top two spades.

#3 –

Over the years there have been several methods available to make major suit game tries. First there was the long suit try which has merged with the help suit try. These ask for help in a specific suit. Or, there is the short suit game try which takes the opposite approach by showing where you don't need help. There is even a way to combine these.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-45	♠ J52	-	-	-	1♥
	♥ A72	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Vul N/S	♦ A108	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
	♣ 10852	Pass			
♠ K1093					
♥ J53					
♦ Q753					
♣ K7					
	♠ AQ876				
	♥ 106				
	♦ J6				
	♣ 9643				
	♠ 4				
	♥ KQ984				
	♦ K942				
	♣ AQJ				

Bidding: This N/S pair uses two-way game tries. The first step (2♠) would have asked where North's values were. By skipping a step, South initiated the short suit try showing spade shortness and asked North to evaluate accordingly. With two aces in the red suits, it was easy for North to accept the game try.


Play: West led a low spade to the ace and declarer trumped the second round. He drew trumps in three rounds followed by the ace and queen of clubs. This was a team game and he could count ten tricks, so he didn't even consider the club finesse. West won the king of clubs and led a third spade. Declarer ruffed with his last trump and had his ten tricks: 2 spade ruffs, 3 heart tricks, 2 diamonds, and 3 clubs.

At the other table, South did not consider his hand strong enough to try for game. This was a loss of 10 IMPs.

#4 –

You usually need around 33 high card points to be in slam range. However, when there is a fit in two suits, twelve tricks may be available with less.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 19-46	♠ J76		West	North	East	South
	♥ KQ953		-	1♥	Pass	1♠
Vul N/S	♦ AQ43		Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
	♣ A		DBL	3♠	Pass	4♣
♠ 83		♠ 1042	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
♥ 874		♥ 106	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
♦ 92		♦ KJ5	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ KQJ953		♣ 87642				
	♠ AKQ95					
	♥ AJ2					
	♦ 10876					
	♣ 10					

Bidding: The fit in both majors was found and after a series of cue bids, N/S reached the slam.

Play: West led the king of clubs to dummy's ace. Declarer drew trumps and was able to discard two of his diamonds on the heart suit. He later took the losing diamond finesse trying for the overtrick.

In a small, local game most of the N/S pairs stopped in 4♥ or 4♠. Since neither player showed a strong hand in the auction, slam was not considered.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2019 & 2020 only

2020/8/1	70.14%	Eunice Patton & Steve Babin
2020/7/20	72.78%	Cindy Lake & Melissa Paschold(99ers)
2020/7/15	70.30%	Chris Benson & John Seng
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



#149 – A PRACTICAL CERTAINTY

	♠ 8 ♥ 862 ♦ 7543 ♣ QJT62	
♠ QJT9 ♥ 43 ♦ KJT ♣ A943	North West East Declarer	♠ 765432 ♥ ♦ 986 ♣ K875
	♠ AK ♥ AKQJT975 ♦ AQ2 ♣	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass

2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

4NT Pass 5♣ Pass

5NT Pass 6♥ All Pass

2♣ showed a strong hand, 2♦ was weak, 4NT asked for Key Cards (which are the Aces and the King of trumps), 5NT asked for *specific* Kings (not the number of Kings), and 6♥ said “no side-suit King”.

When this deal came up in a team game, both the South players had visions of a grand slam if only North would be obliging enough to hold the ♦K. When that turned out not to be the case, they settled for the small slam. The first Declarer won the opening ♠Q lead, drew the missing trumps, cashed the ♦A (just in case West had the singleton King), crossed to Dummy with a trump, and led up to his ♦Q. That was down one when West produced the King. “Not a bad slam”, announced Declarer, “it just needed a finesse”

The second Declarer also did some finessing, but she brought home her contract with ruffing finesses in Clubs. She won the ♠A, led the Heart Seven to Dummy’s Eight, and ran the ♣Q around, pitching a Diamond from hand. West took his Ace and fired back a Spade, but Dummy ruffed Declarer’s winner, and the ♠J was played next. East covered this and Declarer ruffed *high*. Now Dummy’s Heart Six provided an entry to the Club Ten, on which was pitched the ♦Q. Declarer needed three entries to the board for this line of play to work, and had to be careful with those trump spots. In fact, switch the Five and Six of trumps and the contract does not make (for lack of a third Dummy entry).

Why is it better to take the ruffing finesses in Clubs than to rely on the Diamond finesse? The Diamond finesse is a 50% proposition. However, the ruffing finesses require only that East has one or both of the missing high Clubs, which is approximately a 75% chance. In reality, though, it’s a practical certainty as surely West’s opening lead would be a high Club if he held both of them.

#150 – WRONG QUESTION

	♠ 9542 ♥ AQJ64 ♦ AT8 ♣ 7	
♠ K ♥ K832 ♦ QJ97 ♣ 8652	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ JT8 ♥ T9 ♦ K6542 ♣ JT9
	♠ AQ763 ♥ 75 ♦ 3 ♣ AKQ43	

N-S Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
			1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	

Once North opens the bidding it is hard for South to stay out of slam. Not that it's a bad slam but it does require a little bit of luck in one or both of the major suits. But good players make their own luck!

West leads the ♦Q, won in Dummy. There are two ways to play the trump suit ... either Declarer can take a first round

finesse, which is the best way to play the suit for no losers ... or Declarer can cash the ♠A first, and later lead towards the Queen, a line of play designed to maximize the chances of escaping with only one trump loser (as it caters for singleton King offside). Which line of play do you adopt (we'll pretend that you have not already peeked at the E-W hands)?

Actually, that's the wrong question, the right question is *when* should Declarer play trumps. At Trick 2 Declarer does not know what is the objective in the trump suit. That depends upon the Heart suit:

- If the Heart finesse loses, then Declarer must play the trump suit all out, finessing the Queen on the first round and hoping that the King is doubleton and onside.
- If the Heart finesse wins, then Declarer has some leeway and can improve the chances of not losing *two* trump tricks, by cashing the Ace and later leading towards the Queen.

It's not a difficult hand when Declarer realizes that the success or failure of the Heart finesse will allow the trumps to be played in optimal fashion. On the actual layout, the play goes: Diamond lead won in Dummy, Diamond ruff, successful Heart finesse, and a Spade to the Ace, dropping the King with great aplomb and holding the trump losers to one. Making 12 tricks.

#151 – A NASTY SURPRISE

	♠ Q75 ♥ Q3 ♦ K53 ♣ KQT96	
♠ T93 ♥ 742 ♦ J86 ♣ 8542	North West East Declarer	♠ AKJ8 ♥ JT98 ♦ QT9 ♣ J7
	♠ 642 ♥ AK65 ♦ A742 ♣ A3	

N-S Vulnerable
 South West North East
 1NT Pass 3NT Pass
 Pass Pass

After this auction, the failure to use Stayman suggests that the defense attacks one of the major suits, unless there is a compelling alternative. In a recent team game, both West players led a Spade, but only one of the East players was extraordinarily devious.

It looks like a most straightforward deal. West leads a Spade, East takes his four tricks in the suit and, with no reason to take the Club finesse, Declarer plays that suit from the top and takes the rest. And that's exactly what happened at the first table. Making 9 tricks.

At the second table, East did some counting. He had 12 HCP, Declarer purported to have 15-17, and there were 12 in Dummy. That left West with one point or none. East also counted 10 tricks for Declarer, as he would surely be playing the Clubs from the top. That being the case, it seemed obvious to cash the Spades and give up, as happened at the other table. How did East trick Declarer into taking the losing Club finesse?

East won the opening lead with the ♠J, cashed the ♠K and ♠A and, instead of finishing off the Spades, shifted to a Heart! Declarer reasonably concluded that West has led from ♠T983, and that East had started with ♠AKJ. In that case, it was essential to develop a fourth Club trick without letting West gain the lead. There was a simple solution. Declarer would cash the ♣A and finesse the Club, making sure of 9 or 10 tricks. But Declarer got a nasty surprise when that devious East fellow won his ♣J and promptly cashed the last Spade for down one!

#152 – DUMMY REVERSAL

	♠ 8642 ♥ KQ9 ♦ KJ6 ♣ AKQ	
♠ AQJT53 ♥ 542 ♦ T42 ♣ 4	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ K97 ♥ 6 ♦ 9873 ♣ J9853
	♠ ♥ AJT873 ♦ AQ5 ♣ T762	

E-W Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♥	2♠	3♠	Dbf
Rdbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♥	All Pass

N-S do well to reach 7♥. North's 3♠ said "Good hand with Heart support", South's Redouble showed a control in Spades, 4NT asked for Aces, and the 5NT response said "Two Aces and a void". That void was clearly in Spades, so North took a shot at the grand slam.

Trusting that the ♠A was not cashing, West led a trump, at which point Declarer could see 12 top tricks. The 13th might come from the Club suit (if the Jack would come down in three rounds), or, if trumps were 2-2 then the 13th trick would come from a Club ruff in Dummy. As you can see, both these lines of play were doomed to failure, but there was another line available, in the form of a so-called dummy reversal. Instead of counting six trump tricks in her hand plus maybe a single (Club) ruff in Dummy, Declarer reversed her thinking and went for no fewer than four Spade ruffs in her own hand.

Here's how the play started: opening trump lead won in Dummy, Spade ruff, trump to Dummy (East showing out, and putting paid to any ideas of a Club ruff in Dummy) and another Spade ruff. Back to Dummy with a Club, another Spade ruff, back to Dummy with the ♦J, and a fourth Spade ruff. Declarer had negotiated all the required ruffs but still had to get back to Dummy to draw that last enemy trump. As there were more Diamonds out than there were Clubs, Declarer reckoned that returning to Dummy with Diamonds was less likely to run into a defensive ruff. And so it was, with the dummy reversal bringing in 13 tricks.

P.S. If trumps had been 2-2 then Declarer would have abandoned the dummy reversal, counting up to 13 tricks with six trumps plus six side-suit tricks plus one ruff in the short hand. But when the dummy reversal became necessary the arithmetic changed to only three trump tricks (in Dummy) plus six side-suit tricks plus four ruffs in the long hand.

Upcoming tournaments:

