



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 11 – November, 2020



November 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, 6:30pm – 299ers only pairs(changed effective 11/19/2020)

Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Fridays, 11:50am = limited pairs(added effective 11/20/2020) – mentee-mentor 1st & 3rd – 499ers only 2nd, 4th, 5th

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:

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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 10/6/2020 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,207.61	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,294.05	JoAnn Schroeder
4	3,236.09	Eunice Patton
5	2,689.28	Cindy Moore
6	2,345.43	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,319.64	Ann Schuyler
8	2,119.75	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,544.14	Jeff Furler
11	1,356.79	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,126.82	Steve Wulfers
15	995.47	Randall Motchan
16	830.65	Dave Freehill
17	689.83	Sallie Boge
18	679.73	Ray Dostal
19	563.52	Fred Spitzzeri
20	562.29	Mary Tweedie
21	542.40	Mary Cralley
22	452.71	John Cralley
23	355.11	Larry Ziegler
24	337.51	Chris Zogg
25	321.17	Joyce Werner

Other players:

12,857.68	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,558.19	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,377.01	John Seng-Champaign
4,188.03	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,325.06	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,635.54	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,417.05	John Maloney-Champaign
2,099.44	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,974.88	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,565.98	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,315.15	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,153.38	Wes Seitz-Champaign
963.84	Bill Strauss-Urbana
768.96	Carole Miller-Champaign
719.14	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
691.91	Bill Thompson-Champaign
665.93	Melda Richardson-California
603.28	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
500.47	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
484.41	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
419.46	John Ford-Harvard,MA
375.10	Ron Sinn-Peoria
356.55	Connie Tucker-Champaign



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#1 –

Slam bidding became easier in the early 1960's when the splinter bid was introduced. Before that cue bidding and Blackwood were used to show high cards but those methods failed to show shortness.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

	West	North	East	South
Hand 19-51	-	-	Pass	1♣
Vul None	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♥
	Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT
	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 65	♠ 1087
♥ A1052	♥ KQ863
♦ 8732	♦ J654
♣ 1086	♣ 2

♠ AKQ94	
♥ 9	
♦ A9	
♣ KJ975	

Bidding: North responded with a game-forcing 2♣ and South's hand became huge. The jump to 3♥ was a splinter bid showing shortness in hearts, four+ clubs, and extra values. North set the trump suit with his 3♣ bid and then South launched Roman Keycard Blackwood. North admitted to only one keycard so South stopped in the small slam.

Play: West led the ace of hearts and declarer ruffed the second round. Declarer drew trumps and claimed the slam. In a small, local game several N/S pairs missed the cold slam when South failed to show the singleton heart.

#2 –

Grand slams can be dangerous to bid. In a team game, no one wants to compare scores and be down one in seven when the other table stopped in six. Or, even worse, find the opponents didn't even bid a slam.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-52	♠ 753	-	1♦	3♠	5♥
Vul None	♦ AKQJ963	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
	♣ KQ6	Pass	6♦	Pass	7♥
		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ K1075	□				
♥ 864					
♦ 854					
♣ 843					
	♠ 82				
	♥ AKQJ92				
	♦ 10				
	♣ AJ75				
	♠ AQJ9643				
	♥ 10				
	♦ 72				
	♣ 1092				

Bidding: After East's spade preempt, South's jump to 5♥ asked if North had first or second round control of spades. North's cue bid confirmed first round control. Next, South cue bid clubs to show an interest in a grand slam and North cooperated by cue bidding diamonds. South closed the auction by bidding 7♥.

Play: West led a low spade and South quickly claimed all thirteen tricks. The N/S pair at the other table stopped in 6♦ making seven. The scores of +1520 and -940 meant a swing of 11 IMPs.

#3 -

Too often players spend most of their time on bidding and declarer play. The equally important area of defense seems to come in last. Good defense can be fun.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

		West	North	East	South
Hand 19-53	♠ 1065	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Vul None	♥ AK3	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
	♦ 73	Pass			
	♣ AQ852				

♠ QJ9732
♥ 1085
♦ A109
♣ 10



♠ 8
♥ Q9
♦ QJ6542
♣ K743

♠ AK4
♥ J7642
♦ K8
♣ J96

Bidding: South was reluctant to introduce such a poor suit at the 3-level but did not want to allow the opponents to buy the contract at 2♠. He realized this could go badly. Fortunately, his partner who was unable to compete earlier, had enough values to bid game.

Play: At this table West led his singleton club. Declarer saw four possible losers: 1 spade, 2 diamonds, and 1 club. He ducked hoping the lead was not a singleton. East won the king and saw that the defense needed diamond tricks to defeat the contract. He shifted to the queen of diamonds and declarer ducked. Next, East led a low club for his partner to trump. West then cashed the ace of diamonds for down one. If East has simply returned a club at trick two, the defense would have found only three tricks. Declarer would have succeeded if he had won the first club with the ace.

At the other table, West led the queen of spades to declarer's ace. Declarer drew trumps and felt lucky when the queen was doubleton. Next, he led a low club to the ten and queen. East ducked but won the continuation when declarer next led a low club from dummy. East then shifted to the queen of diamonds, but the defense could only take one club and two diamonds. Declarer discarded his low spade on a good club.

#4 –

It is one of the basics of bridge that after the auction one pair defends while the other declares. However, many contracts are won or lost simply because the players did not listen to or remember the auction. See how you would have done with these hands.

Hand #1 -- East-West vulnerable at matchpoints.

Hand #1 ♠A
Dir N ♥Q98
Vul E-W ♦9864
♣87643

♠QJ9832
♥6
♦7
♣AQJ94



♠K75
♥AKJ54
♦AJ5
♣K10

♠1064
♥10732
♦KQ1032
♣5

West	North	East	South
—	pass	1♥	pass
1♠	pass	2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
4♣	pass	4♦	double
6♠	(all pass)		

BIDDING: East's rebid of 2NT showed 18-19 high card points. With his good two-suited hand, West was interested in slam. East cooperated by first showing spade support and then cue bidding the diamond ace. South doubled 4♦ hoping to get a diamond lead.

PLAY: The only thing North remembered from the bidding was his partner's double so he cooperated by leading a diamond against the 6♠ contract. Declarer won the diamond lead, lost a trump trick, and quickly claimed twelve tricks. If North had only LISTENED TO THE BIDDING, he would have realized that declarer bid clubs twice to show at least five, dummy jumped to 2NT indicating a balanced hand with at least two clubs, so it was simple math to realize South could hold no more than one club. Holding the trump ace, it would be a simple matter for North to lead a club, win the spade at trick two, and give his partner a club ruff to defeat the contract.



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Years 2019 & 2020 only**

2020/10/29	70.20%	Lori Moore & Mary Allen
2020/10/3	71.03%	Bill Bulfer & Steve Babin
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)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#001 – IT'S ELEMENTARY

Crime in London appeared to be taking a vacation, and Sherlock Holmes found himself on opening lead at the Baker Street Bridge Club:

♠ A65, ♥ 92, ♦ T95, ♣ Q9654

	<i>Holmes West</i>	<i>Watson East</i>
	Pass 1♣	Pass 1♦
	Pass 1♠	Pass 1NT
	All Pass	

Let's eavesdrop on the post-mortem in Holmes' 221B bachelor quarters.

Watson: Dash it, Holmes, why not lead the unbid suit? I must have Hearts.

Holmes: Indeed, dear chap, you had four, but so did declarer.

Watson: We know that now.

Holmes: And I knew it before I made my lead.

Watson: An Englishman doesn't peek.

Holmes: No, it was the curious matter of your bidding.

Watson: But I didn't bid.

Holmes: Yes, that was most curious. My 6-count and the opponents' bidding told me that you had a decent hand. And yet you did not overcall 1♥. Clearly you had less than 5 Hearts. The auction also told me that West had less than four Hearts and East less than 5. Thus, the Hearts were 2-3-4-4 around the table.

Watson: Very clever. I suppose you also knew that West had three Clubs.

Holmes: Yes, Watson.

Watson: You *did* know?

Holmes: It seemed most likely. I had five and East had at least two.

Watson: He did?

Holmes: If he was 3=4=5=1 he would raise Spades. With 2=4=6=1 he would rebid Diamonds. Ergo, he had at least two Clubs.

Watson: So, if East had two Clubs and West had four then I would have had just two. With that I would no doubt make a Takeout Double of 1♣.

Holmes: By George, I think he's got it!

	♠ KQJ ♥ 8754 ♦ J63 ♣ AJ3	
♠ T972 ♥ AKJ ♦ Q84 ♣ K87	Watson West East Holmes	♠ 843 ♥ QT63 ♦ AK72 ♣ T2
	♠ A65 ♥ 92 ♦ T95 ♣ Q9654	

Yes, of course, Holmes did not lead the unbid Hearts, he led through West's Club suit. But how on earth did he know to lead the *Queen*, the only card in his hand which beats the contract? That's a story for another day.

#002 – TOO EASY

This week's Declarer got to a great slam but he forgot to make his contract. It was just too easy.

	♠ T854 ♥ ♦ KQJT52 ♣ AKQ	
♠ J96 ♥ A9543 ♦ 63 ♣ T43	North West East South	♠ 3 ♥ KQJT76 ♦ A98 ♣ 962
	♠ AKQ72 ♥ 82	

♦ 74
♣ J875

None Vulnerable
 South West North East
 2♥

2♠ 4♥ 6♠! Pass
 Pass Pass

West leads the ♥A and, when Dummy goes down, who would blame Declarer for thinking “Yippee! What a terrific slam, and on just a combined 25 HCP! Nicely bid, pard!”

Declarer ruffs that ♥A opening lead and, without pausing for thought, cashes the ♠A and ♠K. When East shows out on the second round of trumps, Declarer ponders awhile (it’s a bit late now!) before realizing that “Oops!” and not “Yippee!” is the appropriate exclamation. Yes, indeed, Declarer has goofed mightily. He cannot draw the last trump (that would let the defense score a Heart and a Diamond), so he ruffs a Heart on the board and exits with the ♦K. But that doesn’t work, either. East wins the ♦A and returns a Diamond which must be won in Dummy. Now Declarer has no way back to his hand to draw that last enemy trump. He’ll cash a Diamond and lead another one, but, when East follows to the third round, Declarer will know that his goose is cooked. Whether he ruffs high or low, West’s ♠J will score a trick. Down one!

Of course, the winning line is to ruff the opening Heart lead, cross to the ♠A, ruff another Heart, and then draw trumps. Now is the time for that yippee. Trick 1 was the time for thinking.

#003 – THE POWER OF TENS

♠ A97		
♥ K976		
♦ A874		
♣ A6		
	North	
♠ J43		♠ Q852
♥ J3	West	♥ 8542
♦ KQ62	East	♦ J3
♣ J873		♣ KQ2
	South	
♠ KT6		
♥ AQT		
♦ T95		
♣ T954		

None Vulnerable
 North East South West
 1NT Pass ??

Put yourself in the South chair. Your partner opens a 15-17 1NT and you have to decide whether to invite game, or whether to bid 3NT all by yourself.

The usual benchmark for going to game unaided is “a good 9 or better”. One thing that makes South’s 9-count not so good is the square shape (3-3-3-4), you can almost subtract a HCP for that alone. Does this make South’s hand a “bad 9”? No, not at all, look at that awesome array of intermediate cards! All those lovely Tens may not

count for anything on the 4-3-2-1 HCP scale but they certainly count for something in the play of the hand, especially in No Trump contracts. So, South disregards the dismal distribution and, rejoicing in those splendid Tens, goes directly to 3NT.

Declarer has a minimum 1NT opening (and would have declined a game invitation) but, even so, 3NT is a fine contract. The black Tens protect Declarer against the enemy suits and the red Tens help Declarer to build tricks in his own suits. It will be 10 tricks on most lines of play, but check out what happens if all of South’s Tens are swapped with East’s lowest spot card in each suit. Now it’s hard to see how Declarer can scrape up more than 7 tricks! Here’s to those Tens, the most underrated cards in the deck!

#004 – WAKE-UP CALL

On defense, when leading a suit, we follow certain conventions such as “top of a sequence” or “fourth best”, all the better to help partner figure out our holding in the suit. But, once in a while, we lie. Consider this deal:

North	♠ J87
West Dummy	♥ 65
	♦ K973
South	♣ KQ62
♠ 643	
♥ A43	
♦ T8642	
♣ A7	

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

Pass 1♠ 3♥ 3♠

4♥ 4♠ All Pass

Against 4♠ our partner leads the ♥2 and we win the trick with the Ace. Have you figured out partner’s holding in the Heart suit? Of course not, it’s impossible, the lead makes no sense whatsoever! Partner’s Two is clearly non-standard, it cannot be 4th best when he is known from the bidding to have at least a 6-card suit. What’s he up to? He’s issuing a

wake-up call, requesting us to think outside the box. He doesn’t want us routinely to continue Hearts, he has something else in mind. What could that be? No doubt he can ruff a minor suit! But which one? Surely not Clubs, that would give Declarer seven of them. Partner must be void in Diamonds!

	♠ 52	
	♥KQJT972	
	♦	
	♣ 9854	
♠ AKQT9	North	♠ J87
♥ 8	West	♥ 65
♦ AQJ5	East	♦ K973
♣ JT3		♣ KQ62
	South	
	♠ 643	
	♥ A43	
	♦ T8642	
	♣ A7	

North’s “alarm clock lead”, as it is known, alerts us to the winning defense. A Diamond is ruffed at Trick 2, then a Club returned to our Ace, after which a second ruff. Down one! Those alarm clock leads won’t come up very often but they are great fun when they do!

Upcoming tournaments:



