

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 12 – December, 2020



December 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

Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Fridays, 11:50am = limited pairs – 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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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 11/6/2020 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only**



1	4,225.26	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,337.87	JoAnn Schroeder
4	3,244.46	Eunice Patton
5	2,720.81	Cindy Moore
6	2,353.26	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,319.98	Ann Schuyler
8	2,134.38	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,544.14	Jeff Furler
11	1,377.96	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,126.82	Steve Wulfers
15	830.65	Dave Freehill
16	692.08	Sallie Boge
17	681.38	Ray Dostal
18	568.26	Fred Spitzzeri
19	568.34	Mary Tweedie
20	546.75	Mary Cralley
21	458.09	John Cralley
22	375.06	Larry Ziegler
23	337.99	Chris Zogg
24	334.02	Gene Byers
25	321.17	Joyce Werner

Other players:

12,878.89	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,581.08	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,388.70	John Seng-Champaign
4,218.83	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,340.51	Mary Allen-Peoria
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,645.07	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,417.05	John Maloney-Champaign
2,116.93	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,975.88	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,574.56	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,322.44	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,165.30	Wes Seitz-Champaign
978.71	Bill Strauss-Urbana
769.41	Carole Miller-Champaign
724.93	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
695.34	Bill Thompson-Champaign
672.76	Melda Richardson-California
603.28	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
503.96	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
493.13	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
433.59	John Ford-Harvard,MA
389.06	Ron Sinn-Peoria
362.41	Connie Tucker-Champaign



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#1 –

East-West vulnerable at matchpoints.

Hand #2	♠A				
Dlr S	♥A10743				
Vul E-W	♦AK875				
	♣52				
♠J1032		♠987654	West North	East	South
♥9		♥5			1♥
♦J9		♦1042	2♣	2♦	pass
♣AKQ974		♣J86	pass	5♥	all pass
	♣KQ				
	♥KQJ862				
	♦Q63				
	♣103				

BIDDING: After hearing his partner open 1♥, North was thinking slam but he was obviously concerned about the club suit. His leap to 5♥ asked South to cue bid 6♣ with first round control (in case a grand slam was possible), bid 6♥ with second round control, or pass with two (or more) losers. So many partnerships rely on some form of Blackwood for all slams but as you can see, it would not help here.

PLAY: West quickly won the first two club tricks after which declarer claimed. Several pairs reached the unsuccessful slam.

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#2 -

Here is an example where having the right tools enabled the partnership to reach an excellent slam.

East-West vulnerable at matchpoints.

Hand #3	♠52				
Dlr N	♥9752				
Vul E-W	♦A4				
	♣AQ1054				
		West	North	East	South
♠Q1086	♠J73	—	pass	pass	1♥
♥63	♥A10	pass	3♣	pass	4NT
♦KQ102	♦J98653	pass	5♥	pass	6♥
♣862	♣93	all pass			
	♠AK94				
	♥KQJ84				
	♦7				
	♣KJ9				

BIDDING: As a passed hand, North's bid of 3♣ was a "fit showing" jump promising near opening values along with heart support and a good club suit. Needless to say, South was now interested in slam. He checked for keycards with 4NT and then bid 6♥. Most partnerships do not spend enough time discussing passed hand bidding sequences.


PLAY: This was easy. Declarer won the diamond opening lead and lost only the heart ace. While it was possible to reach the slam with other auctions, showing the good suit along with support made it clear where responder's values were.

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#3 -

This hand shows how to avoid a trap when trying to reach a slam.

North-South vulnerable at IMPS.

Hand	♠KQ85					
#4	♥AJ10					
Dir S	♦AK63					
Vul N-	♣87	West	North	East	South	
					1♠	
♠73		♠42	pass	2NT	pass	3♣
♥8532		♥764	pass	4♦	pass	4♣
♦742		♦1085	all			
♣AK63		♣109542	pass			
	♠AJ1096					
	♥KQ9					
	♦QJ9					
	♣QJ					

BIDDING: I was sitting North and as soon as South opened 1♠, I was interested in slam. I made a forcing spade raise by using the Jacoby 2NT convention. South's bid of 3♣ showed extra values but denied shortness or a second long suit. Holding a worthless doubleton in the club suit, I knew that Blackwood was not the answer. Our agreement is for our cue bids to show first or second round controls. My bid of 4♦ showed a control but since we show our controls up the line, I denied a club feature. My partner had no choice but to stop in 4♣. It is important for you to see that Blackwood would get you too high. If you want to know HOW MANY controls partner holds, use Blackwood; if you need to know WHICH controls, start cue bidding.


PLAY: West took his two high clubs and the rest belonged to declarer.

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#4 -

When a rubber bridge player moves to duplicate bridge, one of most difficult transitions is to fully understand the matchpoint scoring used in pairs events. Making or defeating the contract may no longer be your goal, rather you must strive to achieve the maximum result. See how you would have done with this hand.

East-West vulnerable at matchpoints.

Hand #5	♠AKQ64			
Dlr N	♥Q4			
Vul E-	♦J94			
W	♣1063			
♠J105		♠98	West	North
♥J3		♥A109762	—	1♠
♦1075		♦K863	(all pass)	pass
♣KJ985		♣4		3NT
	♠732			
	♥K85			
	♦AQ2			
	♣AQ72			

BIDDING: I was South and by partnership agreement, my bid of 3NT showed 16-18 high card points, three spades, and a balanced hand. North passed hoping there would be the same number of tricks available in the higher scoring no-trump game.

PLAY: West led the eight of clubs and using the rule of eleven, I knew East had no higher card. Analyzing the hand, I saw those in 4♣ would lose one heart, one diamond, and one or two clubs. So my goal was to ensure nine tricks and hope for ten. I won with the ten in dummy and led the top two spades. Now that the spades were behaving, I led a diamond to my queen. I next led a heart to dummy's queen losing to the ace. I won the ten of hearts return with my king noting the fall of the jack on my left. I now ran the rest of the spades pitching two clubs from my hand. I was confident East had come down to two hearts along with king and another diamond. I led a club to my ace and after East pitched a heart, I threw him into the lead with my last heart. He had to return a diamond to dummy's jack and I had eleven tricks. Most pairs were in 4♣ making ten tricks so merely making my contract would have resulted in a poor score. At matchpoints, always evaluate your contract before you play to the first trick.



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



#005 – IT PAYS TO COUNT

	♠ 852 ♥ KQ ♦ AKT98 ♣ 742	
♠ KT ♥ 8642 ♦ Q76 ♣ AK93	North West East South	♠ J94 ♥ A975 ♦ J3 ♣ QJT8
	♠ AQ763 ♥ JT3 ♦ 542 ♣ 65	
1♠	Dbl	2♠ All Pass

Before seeing the auction, imagine that you are South, playing in 2♠. Looking just at the N-S hands, how would you tackle the trump suit? The percentage play to avoid a second loser is to cash the Ace (a precaution against West having the singleton King), then cross to Dummy and lead towards the Queen. That gets the job done whenever East has the King and it is doubleton or tripleton. As you can see, that is not a success on the actual hand. Declarer loses two trump tricks and ends up going down one. Now let's replay the hand, this time bearing in mind the auction.

South West North East
 1♦ Pass

West leads the ♣A and East plays the Queen (showing the Jack). Clubs are continued and you ruff the third round. Next, you cash the ♠A, and lead a Heart which East wins. A Heart comes back, won on the board, and it's time to lead a Spade. Is there any reason for Declarer to be inspired now and play a *low* Spade from hand? Yes, there is! Declarer needs only to remember West's Double of 1♠ and do some counting. West has 7 points in Clubs, a maximum of 3 in Diamonds and none in Hearts. That's not enough for his bidding! He surely has the ♠K and Declarer's only chance is that West started with King doubleton. Such an easy hand for those who take the trouble to do a little counting.

#006 – DELIGHTFUL DECEPTION

The game of bridge is enriched by many beautiful plays and stratagems, and we all love to talk about our latest Trump Coup or Double Squeeze. But even that pales into insignificance when compared to the fun we get from hoodwinking the opponents with a deceptive play. There's nothing a bridge player enjoys more than a little bit of larceny!

	♠ 652 ♥ 874 ♦ A654 ♣ A64	
♠ AKJ ♥ 6532 ♦ JT9 ♣ 987	North West East South	♠ 43 ♥ QT9 ♦ Q873 ♣ JT53
	♠ QT987 ♥ AKJ ♦ K2 ♣ KQ2	

The N-S auction goes 1♠-2♠-4♠. West leads ♦J and when Dummy goes down it's apparent that the success of the contract depends upon not losing three Spades and one Heart. It's a simple hand, wouldn't you say? Declarer wins the Diamond lead in Dummy, and finesses the ♠T, losing to West's Jack. Oh, well, now there are three sure trump losers and Declarer uses Dummy's sole remaining entry to take the Heart finesse. That works, and it's 10 tricks for Declarer, losing just three trumps.

Rewind! That was easy for Declarer, but only because West made it so. On the first round of trumps, when Declarer finessed the ♠T, a more wily West would have played the Ace (or King)! This doesn't cost anything as West still scores three trump tricks eventually. Now, a bamboozled Declarer crosses to Dummy for the last time and repeats the Spade finesse (which he "knows" will work), rather than take the Heart finesse (which may not work). Beating 4♠ by one trick? A fine result! The look on Declarer's face when the second Spade finesse loses? Priceless!

#007 – AN OLD RUSE

Here's a neat deception, but, alas, it won't work against modern signaling methods.

	♠ 54 ♥ 7542 ♦ AQJT ♣ Q93	
♠ KT86 ♥ KT86 ♦ 542 ♣ K4	North West East South	♠ J932 ♥ AJ3 ♦ 976 ♣ 865
	♠ AQ7 ♥ Q9 ♦ K83 ♣ AJT72	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

2♦ Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass

Against 3NT West leads his 4th-best Spade. East's Jack is taken by Declarer's Queen, then a Diamond to Dummy and the losing Club finesse. At this point West can count 9 or 10 tricks for Declarer, via 2 Spades, 4 Diamonds and 3 or 4 Clubs. West's only hope for defeating 3NT is that the defense can cash 4 Hearts. Bingo! He shifts to a low Heart and it's down one.

Take Two! West leads a low Spade, as before, but this time Declarer wins East's Jack with the Ace! Yes, really! Declarer

doesn't need a second Spade trick, but he does want to avoid a Heart shift and that extravagance in the Spade suit is just the way to do it. Later, when West wins his ♣K, he's likely to be duped into assuming the East has the ♠Q and will lead another low Spade. 10 tricks!

The Antidote! Twenty or thirty years ago, this sneaky ruse worked every time, but nowadays there is a defensive antidote. It involves East telling partner whether or not he likes that opening Spade lead. When Declarer leads a Diamond at Trick 2, East can signal with the Nine (high means "I like your opening lead"), or with the Six (low means "I don't"). On the actual deal, East plays the discouraging Six, alerting West to Declarer's shenanigans. That signal is called a Smith Echo and is a common agreement among tournament players. For more on this, please Google "smith echo for dummies". No offense, dear readers, it's merely a search which takes you to a most helpful article.

#008 – LITTLE WHITE LIE

On defense, sometimes a little white lie is necessary in order to point Partner in the right direction. No more clues, here's your problem:

♠ K86 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQJT6 ♣ 76	
Dummy	♠ 9732 ♥ T982 ♦ A8 ♣ 843
West East	
South	

None Vulnerable
South West North East
 1♥ 2♣ 2♦ Pass
 2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
 Pass Pass

You are sitting East, trying to beat 4♥. Partner leads the ♣A. Where can you find four defensive tricks? No doubt Declarer has the ♠A and the ♥A for that opening bid, so at first glance it may appear that the best the defense can do is to take its two Club tricks and the ♦A. Any ideas for an

extra trick? OK, now that you've solved the problem, the full hand:

	♠ K86 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQJT6 ♣ 76	
♠ QJT5 ♥ --- ♦ 7432 ♣ AKT95	Dummy	♠ 9732 ♥ T982 ♦ A8 ♣ 843
	West East	
	South	
	♠ A4 ♥ AJ7543 ♦ 95 ♣ QJ2	

That's right, at Trick 1 East false-cards with the ♣8, showing a doubleton! East's plan is to conjure up a trump trick out of thin air. Look what happens! West next cashes the ♣K, and East completes his fake high-low. Then West plays a third round of Clubs and who can blame Declarer for ruffing that trick high in Dummy? Obviously he doesn't want to get overruffed by East, and, anyway, squandering that high trump costs nothing if the trumps are 3-1 or 2-2. But they are 4-0, so East gets a trump trick and it's down one!

It was necessary to fool Partner as well as Declarer. If East had signaled honestly in Clubs, then, at Trick 3, West would no doubt have shifted to the ♠Q, hoping that East has the

Ace and trying to grab a couple of Spade tricks before they disappear on the Diamonds.

