

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 2 – February, 2021



February 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 – 999ers 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 2/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only**



1	4,267.32	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,397.86	JoAnn Schroeder
4	3,270.30	Eunice Patton
5	2,779.59	Cindy Moore
6	2,388.52	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,325.54	Ann Schuyler
8	2,161.55	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,544.14	Jeff Furler
11	1,447.80	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,133.49	Steve Wulfers
15	830.65	Dave Freehill
16	708.50	Sallie Boge
17	697.15	Ray Dostal
18	592.69	Fred Spitzzeri
19	583.07	Mary Tweedie
20	561.24	Mary Cralley
21	471.96	John Cralley
22	419.81	Larry Ziegler
23	369.93	Gene Byers
24	339.76	Chris Zogg
25	321.17	Joyce Werner

Other players:

12,923.70	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,642.60	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,514.57	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,439.18	John Seng-Champaign
4,298.53	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,529.22	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,374.93	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,330.99	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,670.76	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,418.80	John Maloney-Champaign
2,163.59	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,980.90	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,617.79	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,342.48	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,215.38	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,029.43	Bill Strauss-Urbana
775.39	Carole Miller-Champaign
768.59	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
721.92	Bill Thompson-Champaign
689.20	Melda Richardson-California
609.76	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
538.57	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
521.89	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
468.28	John Ford-Harvard,MA
417.88	Ron Sinn-Peoria
393.08	Connie Tucker-Champaign



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#1 -

The goal of most preemptive bids is to make it difficult for the opponents to reach their best contract. Often these bids also allow you to find a good sacrifice against their contract. Of course, some preempts merely aid the opponents in playing the hand or cause them to reach a good contract they may not have bid without your interference. See how you would have done with this hand.

North-South vulnerable at IMPs.

Hand #10	♠ Q10632																													
Dlr E	♥ AQ1064																													
N-	♦ AKQ																													
Vul S	♣																													
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>♠ A987</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J8762</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ J8762</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ AKJ5</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							West	North	East	South	♠ A987			Pass	Pass	♥ J8762	1♦	2♦	Pass	4♥	♦ J8762	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	♣ AKJ5	All Pass			
	West	North	East	South																										
♠ A987			Pass	Pass																										
♥ J8762	1♦	2♦	Pass	4♥																										
♦ J8762	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥																										
♣ AKJ5	All Pass																													
	♠ KJ5																													
	♥ 982																													
	♦ 3																													
	♣ Q109863																													
	♠ 4																													
	♥ KJ753																													
	♦ 10954																													
	♣ 742																													


BIDDING: North cue bid 2♦ to show a major two-suited hand and South jumped to game. If North was weak, it might be a good sacrifice; if North was strong, there should be a good play for the game. North tried for slam by cue bidding 5♦, but South had nothing more to say.

PLAY: West led the ace of clubs and South had no trouble bringing in twelve tricks. What does this have to do with preempts? This was a team game and I was North at the other table. East opened the bidding with 3♣, South passed, and West raised to 5♣. I doubled hoping partner would bid his best suit but he decided to take the "sure plus score" and passed. East ruffed the opening heart lead and was able to scramble for twelve tricks. That was +680 at one table and +650 at the other. We lost the match. Sometimes preempts work....

#2 –

Do you wonder how the experts always seem to guess right against you? The answer is the use of the basic techniques of counting, remembering the bidding, and taking proper inferences from the cards as they are played. Sit in the South seat and see how you would have done with this hand.

East-West vulnerable at IMPs.

Hand	♠K65					
#11	♥432					
Dlr W	♦Q1054					
Vul E-W	♣K96					
♠Q1087		♠J943	West	North	East	South
♥K107		♥QJ95	1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
♦AKJ83		♦9	2♥	3♣	All Pass	
♣5		♣Q732				
	♣A2					
	♥A86					
	♦762					
	♣AJ1084					

BIDDING: Sitting South, your bid of 2♣ would usually be made on a six card or longer suit, but your gamble pays off when your partner is able to raise.

PLAY: West played three rounds of diamonds with East ruffing the third. East now switched to the queen of hearts and you stop to analyze your position. You can pitch one heart loser on the queen of diamonds but will have to lose the other. That means you cannot afford to lose a club. All of the clues are present for you to know the exact distribution of the opponents' hands.


First you know West started with five diamonds. West would not have raised hearts without three card support and East must have four of them. The spades must be divided 4-4 or they would have been bid. This leaves West with only one club so you lead to the club king in dummy and then the nine for a finesse.

By simply COUNTING each suit, you discovered West started with 4-3-5-1 distribution.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.

We continue to discover how the experts always seem to guess right against you. To do this, we look at the basic techniques of counting, remembering the bidding, and taking proper inferences from the cards as they are played. Sit in the South seat and see how you would have done with this hand.

East-West vulnerable at IMPs.

Hand #12	♠876				
Dlr W	♥AQJ5				
Vul E-	♦43				
W	♣8765				
		West	North	East	South
♠Q2		♠543	1♦	Pass	Pass
♥K107		♥9843	Pass	2♥	Pass
♦QJ987		♦A52	Pass	3♣	2♠
♣AQ2		♣J109	Pass	All pass	
	♠AKJ109				
	♥62				
	♦K106				
	♣K43				

BIDDING: In the pass-out seat, simply bidding a suit usually shows a hand of around 8-13 high card points. With more it is usually correct to start with a double. North was aggressive, first jumping to 2♥ and then raising your spade bid. Holding no extras values, you find a pass.

PLAY: West's lead of the queen of diamonds is won by East with the ace. East now switches to the jack of clubs which you duck. He continues with a club won by West with the queen. West cashes the ace of clubs and exits with a heart. You've lost four tricks so how do you bring in the rest?

Just REMEMBER THE BIDDING and the solution is easy. East passed his partner's bid and has shown up with the diamond ace and the jack of clubs. That means the heart king and the spade queen are both in the West hand. You must play for the spade queen to drop under your ace or king.

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We continue to discover how the experts always seem to guess right against you. To do this, we look at the basic techniques of counting, remembering the bidding, and taking proper inferences from the cards as they are played. Sit in the South seat and see how you would have done with this hand.

East-West vulnerable at IMPs.

Hand #13 ♠AQJ3
 Dlr W ♥KJ
 Vul E- ♠AQ32
 W ♣654

♠K2	<input type="checkbox"/>	♠54
♥Q754		♥A982
♦10874		♦965
♣KQJ		♣A932

♠109876
 ♥1063
 ♦KJ
 ♣1087

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

BIDDING: North opened 1NT and you sign-off with 2♣. (This hand is from my archives; today most people use transfer bids.) Holding a maximum along with great trump support, North raises to 3♣. You pass and hope you aren't too high..

PLAY: West leads the king of clubs and continues with the queen and jack. East plays high-low showing the ace. West then shifts to a low heart. How do you continue?

Just REMEMBER THE BIDDING and make some ASSUMPTIONS from the cards already played. For you to make this contract, West must hold the spade king. He has already shown up with the KQJ of clubs, so holding the spade king he would not have passed with the heart ace. Therefore the jack is the proper play. If East holds the spade king or heart queen, the contract cannot be made.

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**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Years 2020 & 2021 only**

2021/1/16	70.28%	Larry Ziegler & John Ford
2020/12/26	71.11%	Rick Dalton & Grant Brewen
2020/12/21	70.56%	Bill Bulfer & Steve Babin
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)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#013 – NO SAFE EXIT

This recent deals have been about finessing. In earlier columns, we were trying to avoid them in favor of better alternatives. But this time, we are actually going to take a finesse. Eventually.

	♠ AQ654 ♥ K843 ♦ K7 ♣ 76	
♠ JT9 ♥ 65 ♦ J965 ♣ QJT9	North West East South	♠ K8 ♥ T ♦ T8432 ♣ 85432
	♠ 732 ♥ AQJ972 ♦ AQ ♣ AK	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

6♥ All Pass

N-S take the express lane to 6♥ and West leads the ♣Q. You will win that and draw trumps in two rounds, but then what? You have 11 tricks, can you find the 12th?

This hand appears to depend on a successful Spade finesse and, if the ♠K is with West, then 6♥ makes. But that King is with East on the actual lie of the cards. Does that mean it's down one? Not at all! Having drawn trumps, Declarer cashes those minor suit winners, and leads a Spade to the Ace. Then he crosses back to hand with a trump and leads a

Spade towards the Queen. East wins the King but has no safe exit. With nothing left but minor suit cards, whatever he plays will give Declarer a ruff and sluff. Declarer will pitch the Spade loser from his hand and ruff on the board. Making 12 tricks.

Taking the delayed finesse gave Declarer a second way to win. He would still make his slam whenever West had the ♠K, and he would also succeed when the King was doubleton with East. But only if Declarer cashes his minor suit winners first, forcing East to concede that ruff and sluff after winning the doubleton King.

#014 – A COUPLE OF UPPER-CUTS

This month we take a look at “trump promotion”. Put yourself in the West seat, defending 4♠.

Both Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2♦ 4♥

4♠ All Pass

	♠ T9 ♥ J ♦ AQJ32 ♣ Q5432	
♠ J87 ♥ A ♦ 98754 ♣ AKT8	<i>North</i>	♠ 64 ♥ KQ986532 ♦ 6 ♣ 76
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ AKQ532 ♥ T74 ♦ KT ♣ J9	

To start with, please locate a sheet of paper or your morning slice of toast (marmalade side facing up). Place it diagonally across the diagram, so that only the West and North hands are showing. As West, your opening lead is the ♣A on which Partner plays the Seven and Declarer the Nine. Next, you cash the ♣K (everyone following the suit), then the ♥A. You’ve cashed your three winners, where’s the setting trick? A Diamond ruff? No, Partner had two Clubs, and can hardly have more than two Spades. He cannot have 2=9=0=2 distribution, with that shape he would surely have pushed

on to 5♥. The only other possibility is a trump trick. Yes, indeed! The magic card here, amazingly enough, is the Spade Six! You lead another Club, and if East ruffs with the Six he forces Declarer to overruff with an honor, promoting a trick for your ♠J! This form of trump promotion is known as an upper-cut, and East must ruff with the Smashing Six to deliver the knock-out blow. Ruffing with the Feeble Four would be no more than a tickle under Declarer’s chin.

A Second Upper-Cut! Next, imagine that *East* is Declarer, playing in 4♥. South cashes the ♠A, ♠K, and leads a third Spade, which North ruffs with the ♥J. Another upper-cut, promoting South’s ♥T? No, Declarer simply pitches away his Diamond loser and makes his contract. Let’s have a do over. After cashing the top two Spades, South cashes the ♦K, and *then* leads the third Spade. Now Declarer really is done for, this time the upper-cut sets the contract.

#015 – A CHOICE OF PROMOTIONS

Continuing this month's theme, here is a hand where E-W can beat South's 3♥ contract in one of two ways, each involving a trump promotion.

	♠ JT7 ♥ 98 ♦ AQ54 ♣ 9543	
♠ K2 ♥ Q2 ♦ JT32 ♣ AKJT7	North West East South	♠ AQ8653 ♥ J3 ♦ 987 ♣ 62
	♠ 94 ♥ AKT7654 ♦ K6 ♣ Q8	

None Vulnerable

East South West North

2♠ 3♥ All Pass

East's 2♠ was a "Weak Two", showing a 6-card suit and less than opening values.

With trumps 2-2, it may appear that the defense can manage four black suit winners and nothing else. But, no, the defense can also rustle up a trump trick! West cashes the ♣A and ♣K and leads a third Club. East must ruff with the Jack and now the defense has a trump trick, because an overruff by Declarer sets up West's ♠Q. But you see the snag? Yes, of course, Declarer won't overruff, instead she'll

dump a Spade loser, still making 9 tricks.

Let's try it a different way. This time the defense starts out by cashing its *Spade* winners, and, at Trick 3, East leads another Spade. As before, this promotes a trump trick for the defense, whether Declarer ruffs high or low. But, she won't do either, again she'll wriggle out of her predicament by pitching a loser, this time it will be a Club.

OK, here's the defense's last chance to get it right! They must cash *all four* of their side-suit tricks first. So, the ♣A, ♣K, ♠K, ♠Q take the first four tricks. Now, at Trick 5, another Spade from East dooms Declarer. The defense having cashed all their winners first, Declarer has no losers left to pitch, and this time the trump promotion produces a 5th trick. Down one!

Post Script It may be trump promotion overkill, but there is even a *third* one on this deal. Picture East declaring 2♠ (perhaps South was snoozing through the auction). The ♥A, ♥K are cashed, then the three Diamond winners. When North leads a fourth Diamond, Declarer is helpless, and the defense has conjured up the setting trick in trumps.

#016 – DON'T OVERRUFF!

This week you are South, defending 3♠. You must make *three* good plays in order to beat this contract. Are you up to the challenge?

	♠ K5 ♥ AKT98 ♦ J ♣ KJ985	
♠ 2 ♥ Q764 ♦ KQ752 ♣ QT4	<i>North</i> <i>Dummy Declarer</i>	♠ QJT9743 ♥ 53 ♦ AT3 ♣ A
	♠ A86 ♥ J2 ♦ 9864 ♣ 7632	

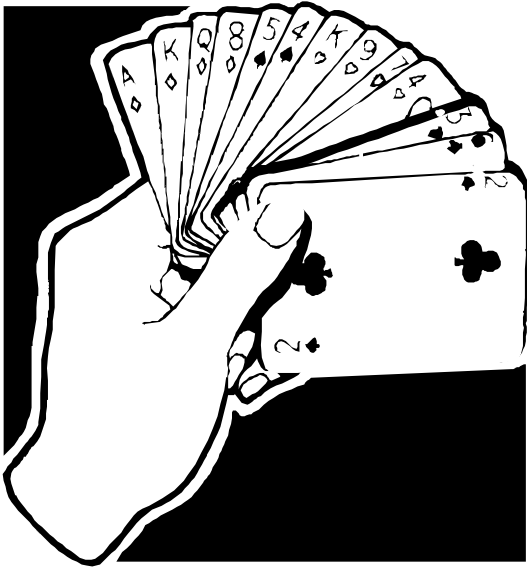
Both Vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♠	All Pass

Before you take your place in the South seat, let's admire Declarer's robust Spade suit. The ♠T and ♠9 are big cards! After the high enemy Spades have been knocked out, those intermediates can look after the rest of the suit. In fact, even if the trumps split 4-1, that lovely Spade Nine will come to the rescue and make sure that the enemy ♠8 does no damage. Well, "Phooey!" is what N-S have to say to about

that. They are about to score their lowly ♠8, even though trumps are 3-2!

Sitting South, you lead the ♥J. That holds the trick, Partner playing the Ten. You lead another Heart, this one being won by Partner's Eight. Declarer ruffs the third round with the ♠9, and it's time for your first good play. *Don't overruff!* Now Declarer leads the ♠Q, and you make your second good play, *you duck your Ace!* Well, perhaps that play was not so brilliant, there was no rush to take that trick. And, anyway, you would look extremely foolish if your Ace crashed Partner's singleton King! As it happens, Partner wins the trick with the ♠K and, with relentless single-mindedness, leads another round of Hearts. Declarer ruffs with the Ten and it's time for the third good play. *Don't overruff!* That's right, your stubborn refusal, on three occasions, to play the ♠A has orchestrated a trump promotion! The defense scores two Hearts and three trumps for down one. Who would have thought that A86 would produce *two* natural trump tricks?



Please see schedule on page 1

