

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 4 – April, 2021



April 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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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 3/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,276.93	Steve Babin
2	3,443.22	Zack Freehill
3	3,417.59	JoAnn Schroeder
4	3,279.69	Eunice Patton
5	2,805.02	Cindy Moore
6	2,406.77	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,334.98	Ann Schuyler
8	2,175.84	Lori Moore
9	1,795.40	Ron Emmett
10	1,544.14	Jeff Furler
11	1,461.54	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,133.89	Steve Wulfers
15	830.65	Dave Freehill
16	714.17	Sallie Boge
17	700.17	Ray Dostal
18	598.28	Fred Spitzzeri
19	590.92	Mary Tweedie
20	562.48	Mary Cralley
21	476.74	John Cralley
22	422.99	Larry Ziegler
23	378.12	Gene Byers
24	340.81	Chris Zogg
25	324.36	Joyce Werner

Other players:

12,938.99	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,659.65	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,539.12	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,452.99	John Seng-Champaign
4,306.22	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,548.06	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,388.05	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,338.99	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,671.71	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,527.17	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,420.07	John Maloney-Champaign
2,173.73	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,982.00	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,622.53	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,350.00	Dan Bunde-Champaign
1,231.75	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,041.30	Bill Strauss-Urbana
782.38	Carole Miller-Champaign
780.16	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
729.74	Bill Thompson-Champaign
690.86	Melda Richardson-California
610.16	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
549.37	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
528.89	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
476.69	John Ford-Harvard,MA
425.23	Ron Sinn-Peoria
399.70	Connie Tucker-Champaign



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#1 –
 Newer players tend to want to use all of the latest conventions. This leads to confusion when a convention is forgotten or misused. Also, a natural bid is often lost in order to use a convention. However, there are some agreements that are easy to recognize and employ bids that have no other meaning. Take a look at this hand.

VUL: N-S
SCORING: Matchpoints

Hand #18	♠AK1095				
Dlr E	♥QJ10876				
Vul N-S	♦K2				
	♣K2	West	North	East	South
♠Q763	♠J842			Pass	1♦
♥54	♥3	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
♦Q102	♦AJ83	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♣
♣QJ98	♣7654	Pass	7♥	All Pass	
	♠AK92				
	♥AK92				
	♦K97654				
	♣A103				

BIDDING: After hearing his partner's 1♥ response, South's hand with 14 high card points and a void was now worth a jump to 3♥. North was immediately interested in slam and wanted to check for aces. However, regular Blackwood or even Roman Keycard would only tell him the number of aces/keycards, not which ones. To solve this dilemma, North jumped to 5♦ unleashing the rarely used Exclusion Blackwood convention. This asked South for the number of keycards (aces plus the king of trumps) held OUTSIDE of the diamond suit. South's two-step response showed 0-3 keycards and North confidently bid the grand slam.

PLAY: North won the opening trump lead, cashed the ace and king of both black suits, and had a high cross-ruff for the rest of the tricks.

So many players routinely use Blackwood before bidding a slam. This is another example where asking for the number of aces would not help.

#2 -

One of the goals of duplicate bridge is to eliminate or at least reduce luck as a factor. Playing the same hands as your opponents usually allows skill to prevail but there is no doubt that luck, good or bad, can rear its head. Take a look at this hand.

VUL: Both
SCORING: IMPS

Hand #19	♠74				
Dlr S	♥865				
Vul Both	♦Q3				
	♣A108765	West	North	East	South
♠Q653					1NT
♥Q97432	□	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
♦107		Pass	3NT	All	
♣9				Pass	
	♠KJ98				
	♥KJ				
	♦AJ5				
	♣QJ43				

BIDDING: Sitting South, I had a classic 1NT opener and partner responded 2♠ which we play as a transfer to clubs. I rebid 2NT showing a good hand with a fit for clubs. This was a team game and we were behind so North took the plunge and bid a highly optimistic 3NT.

PLAY: West led a low heart to the ace and I won the continuation with the king. A lot of cards had to be right for this contract to make. I took a deep breath and led the queen of clubs. I played low from dummy and East won the king. Just when I expected to see another heart, he led a low spade. My first stroke of luck; apparently the hearts were divided 6-2. Since I always go down if the spade ace is on my left, I rose with the king winning the trick. That was my second piece of good luck. I ran the clubs and eventually led a diamond to my jack and when that won, I had nine tricks.

This was certainly a lucky hand and we were now back in the match.

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#3 –

One of the most important factors when bidding is the vulnerability. Many players will make a decision to overcall or make a penalty double without taking this into consideration. Take a look at this hand.

VUL: N/S

SCORING: Matchpoints

Hand #20	♠K107542				
Dlr S	♥65				
Vul N-	♦QJ98				
S	♣6	West	North	East	South
					1NT
♠J83	♠9	Pass	2♥*	3♣	3♣
♥Q872	♥KJ9	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
♦1076	♦AK43				
♣543	♣KJ1098				
	♠AQ6				
	♥A1043				
	♦52				
	♣AQ72				

*Jacoby Transfer

BIDDING: South had a classic 1NT opener and the lack of a diamond honor did not deter him. If he opened 1♣, he had no good rebid after a 1♠ response from his partner. North made a transfer bid of 2♥ showing at least a five-card spade suit. East had a nice hand but overcalling at the three level with only a five-card suit is very dangerous. South had to decide whether to double or bid spades. The vulnerability was the deciding factor. If game was possible in spades, they would have to defeat 3♣ four tricks (+800) to beat a score of +620 for making 4♠. With any other vulnerability, double would have been more appealing.

PLAY: West led a low club won by declarer. South looked at the situation and as is usually the case after a transfer sequence, saw it would be easier to establish dummy. At trick two declarer led a diamond to the queen. East won the ace and shifted to a trump won in hand by declarer with the ace. South now led another diamond to the nine and king. The percentage is for the ace and king of diamonds to be split but East's overcall marked him with both honors. South won the trump continuation with the queen and ruffed a club to get to dummy. He now ruffed a diamond to his hand and then went back to dummy with a club ruff to pull the last trump. Dummy's heart loser was discarded on the club queen and declarer scored eleven tricks for +650.

Note that East would have scrambled at least six tricks for down three and a score of only -500. Also see how East's overcall helped declarer find the outstanding high cards.

#4 –

To be successful at bridge it helps to have a good knowledge of the game, the ability to concentrate, and that intangible called "table feel". It also helps to have a bit of good luck. Take a look at this hand.

VUL: N/S

SCORING: Matchpoints

Hand #21	♠98			
Dlr N	♥5			
Vul N-S	♦1087			
	♣AKQJ432	West	North	East
			3NT*	Pass
		All Pass		6♣
♠				
♥QJ8643	□			♠AJ10762
♦J65				♥K97
♣10765				♦32
				♣98
	♠KQ543			
	♥A102			
	♦AKQ94			
	♣			

*Gambling 3NT

BIDDING: North's opening bid showed a solid seven or eight card minor suit with no outside ace or king. South could count twelve tricks and promptly bid the slam.

West led a heart won by South with the ace. Declarer then ruffed a heart in dummy and drew trumps. He was able to discard dummy's two losing spades on the diamond suit and claim thirteen tricks. How was luck a factor? If North had been declarer, the lead of the ace of spades and another would have defeated the slam. You should also note that 6NT would fail because South would not be able to reach that beautiful club suit.

So was it good bridge or good luck?

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Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2020 & 2021 only

2021/3/20	71.11%	Pat Lebeck & Lynn Steffen(299ers)
2021/2/11	70.74%	Lori Moore & Mary Allen
2021/2/19	70.37%	Mary Pat Killian & Rick Dalton
2021/2/11	71.85%	Lori Moore & Mary Allen
2021/1/16	70.28%	Larry Ziegler & John Ford
2021/1/15	71.61%	Mary Cralley & Charles Wiese
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



#021 – VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Forgive the grandiloquent title, we are not talking here about Lewis and Clark, nor the HMS Beagle, nor even Christopher Columbus. We merely refer to Declarer's intelligent (but hardly epic) play of the ♠K in the following deal:

♠ K9 ♥ 854 ♦ QT ♣ QJT842		
♠ Q84 ♥ JT7 ♦ 9652 ♣ 975	<i>North</i>	♠ 73 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ A874 ♣ A63
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
		♠ AJT652 ♥ 963 ♦ KJ3 ♣ K

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East

1NT

2♠ Pass Pass Pass

Just in case it happens to be a really useful clue, we should point out that East's 1NT showed 15-17 HCP.

The defense cashes three Hearts, then East shifts to the ♦A followed by a low Diamond. How do you play the trump suit?

All things being equal, you would play a Spade over to the King, and then finesse the Jack on the way back. This might seem even more appealing when you remember that East

opened 1NT and therefore has most of the missing HCP. But remember also that East has already shown up with ♥AKQ and ♦A. That's 13 HCP. So you can see that if East has the ♣A that gives him 17 HCP and no room for the ♠Q ... and if East does not have the ♣A then he *must* have the ♠Q for his 1NT opening.

What's needed here is a so-called "discovery play" before tackling trumps. After winning the Diamond return, you play the ♠K in order to smoke out the Ace. When East shows up with that card, he's up to his maximum quota of 17 HCP, and now it's a certainty that West has the ♠Q. That being the case, you ruff East's Club return and take an immediate finesse of the ♠9! The ♠K is now cashed, then back to hand with a Club ruff (fortunately there is no overruff from West). The remaining trump is extracted and it's 8 tricks for those who did some counting and discovering!

#022 – AN AFTERNOON NAP

	♠ Q432 ♥ J ♦ AKQT2 ♣ J53	
♠ ♥ 7432 ♦ 753 ♣ AKQ742	North West East Declarer	♠ AKJT965 ♥ 65 ♦ J64 ♣ 9
	♠ 87 ♥ AKQT98 ♦ 98 ♣ T86	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♦	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

East's 3♠ bid was preemptive, showing a long suit (usually 7 cards) and a weak hand, its purpose being to make life difficult for the opponents. And so it does, pushing N-S into an ugly 4♥ contract which has 5 top losers.

West cashes his three Clubs and then, for want of better, shifts to a Diamond. Dummy wins that, and draws trumps. It was fortunate for Declarer that West started with no

Spades, otherwise he would have been down two in a hurry. But now, if Declarer can bring home the Diamond suit, both of those Spade losers will disappear and this rotten contract will actually make! Do you play Diamonds from the top (hoping that they are 3-3 or that East has Jx)? Or do you finesse the Ten (playing West to have Jxxx)?

It may be tempting to think "East has seven Spades and West has none, therefore West is more likely to have Diamond length" But that's only part of the picture and Declarer will count the whole hand. East started with seven Spades, two Hearts, and one Club, that much we know. This leaves three Diamonds, no more, no less! So Declarer confidently plays the Diamonds from the top and the Spade losers are thrown off. It pays to count in this game!

It also pays to stay awake. Yes, you noticed, the defense was fast asleep! East must ruff the third Club, just in case West has no Spades. Now the Spades are cashed and it is down two. And let's also mention that West should have helped his dozing partner by leading a *low* Club at Trick 3. *That* will wake him up!



#023 – AN AFTERNOON NAP

	♠ Q432 ♥ J ♦ AKQT2 ♣ J53	
♠ ♥ 7432 ♦ 753 ♣ AKQ742	North West East Declarer	♠ AKJT965 ♥ 65 ♦ J64 ♣ 9
	♠ 87 ♥ AKQT98 ♦ 98 ♣ T86	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♦	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

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#024 – A HOLD-UP PLAY

	♠ A83 ♥ 432 ♦ QT9 ♣ KQ85	
♠ KQ6 ♥ AQ86 ♦ 4 ♣ J9763	North West East Declarer	♠ JT952 ♥ JT95 ♦ 876 ♣ T
	♠ 74 ♥ K7 ♦ AKJ532 ♣ A42	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	1♠
3♦	Pass	3NT	4♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

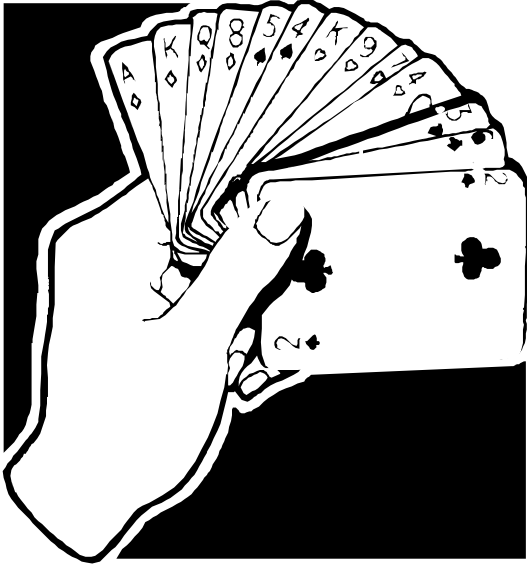
After N-S reached 3NT, East, figuring that his side had a profitable sacrifice, offered his partner a choice between 4♥ or 4♠. This pushed N-S to the perilous contract of 5♦, which, as you will see, Declarer is about to bungle.

Against 5♦ West leads the ♠K, won by Dummy's Ace and trumps are drawn. Declarer can count 10 top tricks, but where is the 11th? Not the ♥K as West needs the ♥A to justify his Takeout Double. That means that a 4th Club trick is required. Are Clubs 3-3? Let's count the hand. East bid both majors and is no doubt at least 4-4 in those suits. He also showed up with 3 Diamonds. That leaves two Clubs at most. But would East bid so much with 4=4=3=2 distribution and virtually no HCP? No, it seems more likely that East is 5=4=3=1 and, if so, Declarer must hope that East's Club is the Jack or Ten or Nine. She cashes the ♣A and, seeing East's Ten, prepares to take an impressively deep finesse of the Eight on the second round!

Well counted for 11 tricks except for one tiny detail. That's right, West can also count and he inserts the Nine on the second round of Clubs. Now Declarer is locked in Dummy with no safe way back to his hand (if he plays a Spade, East will be sure to win and fire a Heart through). Down one.

Declarer's play was flawless right up to the point where he called for Dummy's ♠A at Trick 1. Instead, he must hold up the Ace and win the second round. That way, later in the play, he can get safely back to hand with a Spade ruff and take that second Club finesse. Yet another contract bites the dust because of hasty play at Trick 1.





Please see schedule on page 1

