

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 6 – June, 2021



## June Events



**Bloomington-Normal Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:00AM:**

**June 7th - Mentor Game and North American Pairs Qualifier WELCOME BACK PARTY!!!!**

**June 14th – open pairs                      June 21st – open pairs                      June 28th – open 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:**

**Mondays, 6:15pm – 199ers only pairs – Mike's Bridge Room – lower level of 1714 Tompkins Dr, Normal**

**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – open pairs**

**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 499ers only pairs**

**Saturdays, 12:30pm – open pairs**

**Online(BBO) bridge available at:**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – 999ers only 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturdays, 11:50am – 299ers only pairs**

**Saturdays, 12:10pm – open pairs**

**Sundays, 6:50pm – mentee-mentor 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – open 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 5/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,299.90 Steve Babin
- 2 3,491.80 JoAnn Schroeder
- 3 3,443.22 Zack Freehill
- 4 3,290.17 Eunice Patton
- 5 2,850.87 Cindy Moore
- 6 2,427.29 Mike Tomlianovich
- 7 2,335.56 Ann Schuyler
- 8 2,203.59 Lori Moore
- 9 1,795.40 Ron Emmett
- 10 1,544.14 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,491.59 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
- 16 719.71 Sallie Boge
- 17 717.70 Ray Dostal
- 18 605.38 Fred Spitzzeri
- 19 599.26 Mary Tweedie
- 20 579.68 Mary Cralley
- 21 492.40 John Cralley
- 22 448.57 Larry Ziegler
- 23 387.70 Gene Byers
- 24 343.26 Chris Zogg
- 25 342.42 Joyce Werner

## Other players:

- 12,996.25 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 5,706.99 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- 5,601.13 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,482.95 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,345.28 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,592.00 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,427.00 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 3,368.23 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
- 2,424.70 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,199.07 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 1,989.52 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,654.22 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,352.77 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,255.22 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,057.50 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 808.23 Darryl Bremner-Canton
- 786.24 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 744.22 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 699.63 Melda Richardson-California
- 610.16 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 565.99 Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
- 536.55 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 493.63 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 433.16 Ron Sinn-Peoria
- 425.41 Connie Tucker-Champaign





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#1

A simple overcall has many roles. It can suggest a sacrifice, buy the contract, or ask for a lead. The following hand has a lead directing overcall and also shows how important carding is to the defense.

Hand #26  
 Dlr S  
 Vul N-S

♠ J107542  
 ♥ 1092  
 ♦ J2  
 ♣ 42

West North East South

♠ 6  
 ♥ AQ87  
 ♦ 98765  
 ♣ 1053



♠ 9  
 ♥ 6543  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ AKQJ76

			2♣
Pass	2♥	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

♠ AKQ83  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ AKQ10  
 ♣ 98

**BIDDING:** After South's 2♣ opening bid, North used an artificial 2♥ bid to show a very weak hand containing 0-3 high card points. East took advantage of the vulnerability to make a lead directing overcall and North-South continued on to game.


**PLAY:** West led the club three to his partner's jack. When East continued with another high club, West had the opportunity to make a SUIT PREFERENCE play. He followed with the ten to show values in hearts, the higher ranking of the two side suits. Switch his red suit holdings and he would have played the five of clubs. Looking at the problem from the East seat, without help from his partner East would have no idea how to continue after winning the second club trick.

Note that without the heart shift, declarer will make the hand by drawing trumps and then discarding two of dummy's heart losers on good diamonds. The opportunities for suit preference occur frequently so remember: every card you play has a meaning.

## #2

Playing duplicate bridge with matchpoint (pairs) scoring is a difficult game. Most people just "play bridge" and don't understand how different a game matchpoints is. At this form of scoring, making or defeating the contract is not your objective. Rather, you must attempt to make the largest plus or the smallest minus in your direction. Here is a good example.

### SCORING: Matchpoints

<b>Hand #27</b>	♠754				
<b>Dlr S</b>	♥8				
<b>Vul N-</b>	♦J104				
<b>S</b>	♣AKQJ97	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠63					1♦
♥AJ763		Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
♦83		Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
♣8653		All Pass			
	♠AK108				
	♥KQ10				
	♦Q9652				
	♣10				

**BIDDING:** This partnership plays a 2/1 response forcing to game so although North was a bit light in high card points, the strength of the club suit made up for it.

**PLAY:** West led a low heart won by declarer with the ten. South then led a low diamond to the jack was won by East with the king. Without giving it much thought, East returned a heart, his partner's suit. Declarer now led out all of dummy's clubs and East had to make a discard from ♦A and ♠QJ92. Behind him, declarer held ♦Q and ♠AK108 so he made eleven tricks for a top board. If East had stopped and REMEMBERED THE BIDDING and COUNTED declarer's points, he would have realized that West could not hold more than one high honor card. Also, the fact that declarer did not run clubs right away was a clue as to what was about to happen. Just hold the East hand for a moment and try to imagine what you are going to discard on the run of the club suit and you can more easily see the problem. After winning the diamond king, East should have also cashed the ace of diamonds before returning a heart to his partner's ace. Just holding North-South to ten tricks would have resulted in an average score.

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### #3

The negative double has been around for over fifty years but some people still don't use it correctly. An important part of this tool is for opener to keep in mind the possibility of a penalty double. Take a look at his hand.

#### SCORING: Matchpoints

<b>Hand</b>	♠K2				
<b>#28</b>	♥KQJ102				
<b>Dir S</b>	♦Q653				
<b>Vul E-W</b>	♣108				
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠J4	□	♠A753			1♣
♥A98653	□	♥74	2♥	Pass	DBL
♦9	□	♦KJ42	All Pass		
♣AQ76	□	♣432			
	♠Q10986				
	♥				
	♦A1087				
	♣KJ97				

**BIDDING:** I held the South hand and although I had only ten high card points, the void and good intermediates convinced me to open the bidding. West ignored the vulnerability and overcalled 2♥. My partner passed and I reopened with a double which ended the auction. Holding a void in the opponents' bid suit is actually a liability since I won't be able to lead trumps, but I could not pass in case partner held a good hand with hearts.

**PLAY:** My partner led the ♠king and declarer was only able to come to six tricks. Needless to say +500 was a top score.


Two points of interest: First a vulnerable overcall with such a weak suit was extremely ill-advised. The second point is that since North cannot make a penalty double, South must not pass simply because he holds a weak hand. His holding in the overcaller's suit is the deciding factor. For example, if South held enough hearts to be sure his partner was not waiting for a re-opening double, he should pass with a minimum hand. As he left the table, I heard West say "But I had a six-card suit".

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#### #4

One of the first lessons in declarer play is the simple finesse. However, a finesse should be your last resort, not your first and the experienced player will always look for ways to avoid them. Take a look at this hand.

SCORING: Matchpoints

<b>Hand #29</b>	♠87				
<b>Dlr S</b>	♥Q9843				
<b>Vul E-</b>	♦J73				
<b>W</b>	♣KQ4				
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠K654		♠AQ932			1♥
♥5		♥102	Pass	2♥	4♥
♦1062		♦K854	All Pass	Pass	
♣J10972		♣63			
	♠J10				
	♥AKJ76				
	♦AQ9				
	♣A85				

BIDDING: South held a huge hand but it was unlikely North held enough values for slam so they settled in game.

PLAY: West led the J♣ and South saw there were two spades and a possible diamond trick to be lost. Since this was a pairs event, overtricks were important. He saw a way to possibly avoid a diamond loser: he drew trumps, played the remaining two high clubs, and then led a spade. After cashing a second spade, the opponents must lead a diamond or allow declarer to discard a diamond while ruffing in the other hand. On this occasion, East won the second spade and his diamond return was passed around to dummy's jack. Another diamond to declarer's queen resulted in eleven tricks and a good score.

Note that if declarer attacked the diamond suit he would always lose a trick. If he led dummy's jack, East would cover with the king and West's ten would win a trick. The alternative play of a low diamond from dummy to finesse with the queen would win, but declarer would still have a diamond loser.

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**Introduction to Bridge** (Hands-on introduction for new players)

July 19<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Boot Camp Week 1** (Intense Play of the Hand training for new players)

July 26<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>

**Boot Camp Week 2** (Intense Bidding and Defense training for new players)

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>

**Intermediate and Advanced Workshop**

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>

Hours: 10:00 AM -12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm PDT

Fee: \$100/ 5-day session. *Financial aid available*

**To register email**

[camp@B4youth.org](mailto:camp@B4youth.org)



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

<b>2021/5/5</b>	<b>70.43%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; David Quigg</b>
<b>2021/4/15</b>	<b>71.91%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/3/20</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Pat Lebeck &amp; Lynn Steffen(299ers)</b>
<b>2021/2/11</b>	<b>70.74%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/2/19</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Mary Pat Killian &amp; Rick Dalton</b>
<b>2021/2/11</b>	<b>71.85%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/1/16</b>	<b>70.28%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<b>2021/1/15</b>	<b>71.61%</b>	<b>Mary Cralley &amp; Charles Wiese</b>
<b>2020/12/26</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Rick Dalton &amp; Grant Brewen</b>
<b>2020/12/21</b>	<b>70.56%</b>	<b>Bill Bulfer &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2020/10/29</b>	<b>70.20%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2020/10/3</b>	<b>71.03%</b>	<b>Bill Bulfer &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2020/8/1</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2020/7/20</b>	<b>72.78%</b>	<b>Cindy Lake &amp; Melissa Paschold(99ers)</b>
<b>2020/7/15</b>	<b>70.30%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; John Seng</b>
<b>2020/6/22</b>	<b>71.99%</b>	<b>Cindy Moore &amp; Mike Tomlianovich</b>
<b>2020/4/23</b>	<b>70.16%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; Ray Dostal</b>
<b>2020/1/6</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Rod Ruder &amp; Doug Lamb(99ers)</b>





## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #029 – TAKE FOUR

This week you are playing E-W, and as the problem is a tough one you get four attempts to beat the contract.

	♠ 876 ♥ K32 ♦ AK98 ♣ J92	
♠ AJT43 ♥ JT4 ♦ Q54 ♣ 73	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>Declarer</i>	♠ KQ9 ♥ Q65 ♦ T7632 ♣ 65
	♠ 52 ♥ A987 ♦ J ♣ AKQT84	

*E-W Vulnerable*

**South West North East**

1♣ 1♠ Dbl 2♠

4♥ All Pass

North's bid was a Negative Double, showing the unbid suits. She usually has 4 cards in the unbid major for that bid, but was stuck for a good alternative. Anyway, South lands in 4♥, and you are on defense. Can you beat this precarious contract?

Take 1: Spades are led, Declarer ruffing the third round. The ♥8 is ducked around to East's Queen. But East has no

Spades left, and it's easy for Declarer to win whatever is returned, draw trumps and claim the rest. Cut!

Take 2: The defense has a certain trump trick and they must make sure that it is West who wins that trick. This allows Spades to be continued, causing Declarer to lose trump control. So, when the ♥8 is led, West must hop up with the Ten, forcing Declarer to play Dummy's King. Now a Heart to Declarer's Ace and a low Heart to East's Queen. Again the wrong defender has won the Heart trick. Cut!

Take 3: OK, suppose West plays his ♥T on the first round, forcing Dummy's King, but then, on the second round, East cleverly jumps up with the Queen. No, that won't work either, Declarer simply lets the Queen win. Cut!

Take 4: As before, West plays the ♥T, and East must do his part by dropping the ♥Q under Dummy's King! Great defense! This guarantees that West wins the defense's Heart trick and he is the one who can play Spades. Down one!

That would be an awfully hard defense to find at the table, don't you think? In fact, it's tough enough even when looking at all four hands. But a thing of beauty nonetheless, all the more so as it gave both defenders a starring role.

#030 – COUNT SIGNALS

Count Dracula may have been a scary fellow, but Count Signals can be the defenders' best friend, as illustrated in this week's deal. You are West, so try looking at just the N-W hands and see if you can beat 5♠ doubled.

	♠ 65 ♥ ♦ K98762 ♣ KQT96	
♠ Q ♥ AKT43 ♦ AJ54 ♣ A53	North West East Declarer	♠ 874 ♥ QJ962 ♦ QT ♣ 842
	♠ AKJT932 ♥ 875 ♦ 3 ♣ J7	

None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
3♠	Dbl	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

You lead a high Heart, ruffed in Dummy. Then a Club is played to Declarer's Jack. Do you win this trick? And how do propose to set the contract?

You could grab your ♣A and lead your trump. That will stop a second Heart ruff in Dummy. The danger is that, after

drawing trumps, if Declarer has a second Club, she will be able to run the Clubs, pitching away all her red suit losers.

Does that mean you should duck the first Club trick? Not necessarily, that could also be fatal. Declarer's Jack might be singleton in which case, if you duck, Declarer ruffs another Heart in Dummy, returns to hand with a Club ruff, and draws trumps. Her shape is likely to be 7=3=2=1, and she can now build her 11<sup>th</sup> trick by leading a Diamond towards Dummy.

So, the success of the defense depends upon West guessing whether Declarer started with one or two Clubs. But no guessing is required for those defenders who give count signals when Declarer leads a suit. If E-W are using this valuable tool then, on the first round of Clubs, East plays low to show an odd number (of Clubs), and high to show an even number.

On the actual deal, East plays the Two, so West knows that Declarer's ♣J cannot be singleton and that he can safely duck that trick. After winning the ♣J, Declarer ruffs another Heart in Dummy, but can score no more than 10 tricks. If East started with ♣8742, he would play the Eight on the first round of Clubs (high to show an even number), from which West deduces that the ♣J is singleton (Jxx is possible but less likely) and that the ♣A must be grabbed and a trump returned.



## #031 – THE SAFE HAND

	♠ K543 ♥ AT ♦ A97 ♣ 8543	
♠ J92 ♥ J94 ♦ J652 ♣ J62	North  West East  Declarer	♠ AQT8 ♥ K7532 ♦ T84 ♣ 9
	♠ 76 ♥ Q86 ♦ KQ3 ♣ AKQT7	

*Both Vulnerable*

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

3NT is the normal contract and 9 top tricks are available. But this event was duplicate bridge where it's not always enough just to make your contract, it's also important to make overtricks. So, the question for you South players is "How do you make 10 tricks after an opening Diamond lead?"

Hearts are the best place to get that extra trick and there are two ways to tackle the suit ... either finesse the Ten hoping that West has the Jack ... or lead towards the Queen hoping

that East has the King. As you can see both plays work and will earn that valuable overtrick. But playing East for the ♥K is dangerous! If it turns out that West has the King then he can shift dramatically to the ♠J and South's cold contract is down one! The correct play is to win the opening lead in hand and finesse the ♥T, forcing East to win the trick. On this deal, East is the "safe hand", the one that cannot make the deadly Spade shift through Dummy's King.

Post Script When Declarer led a Heart towards Dummy's AT West could have made a brilliant and spectacular play! If he rises majestically with the Jack then Declarer will fear that West started with the King as well. If that's the case then the 10<sup>th</sup> trick cannot be developed without letting the danger hand gain the lead and the play of the ♥J might persuade a nervous (aka chicken) Declarer to settle for 9 tricks. But a bold Declarer will go for the gusto, playing a second round of Hearts and risking the contract for the precious overtrick.



#032 – SECOND HAND HIGH

“Second hand low” is common advice, but this is a hand where it pays to ignore that recommendation.

♠ K ♥ 96 ♦ AJT98 ♣ J9764		
♠ JT98 ♥ 432 ♦ K6 ♣ K853	North  West East  Declarer	♠ A762 ♥ JT87 ♦ Q75 ♣ QT
	♠ Q543 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ 432 ♣ A2	

*E-W Vulnerable*

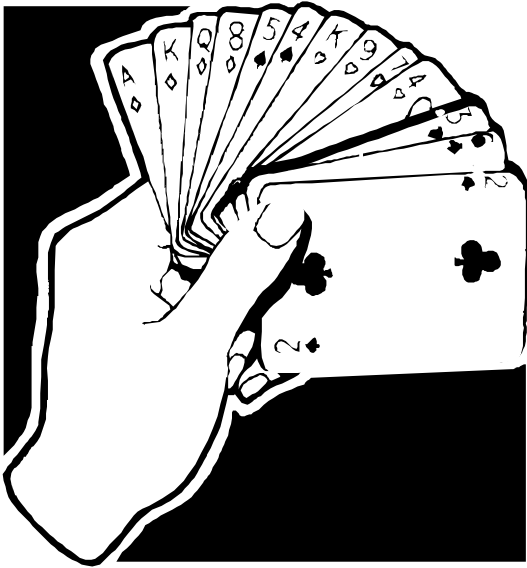
**South West North East**  
1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

North saw no reason to mess about showing the minors, so she jumped straight to game in the most likely contract. West had the obvious lead of the ♠J, won by East’s Ace. Back came a Spade and Declarer could see 9 tricks if she could bring in the Diamonds. She finessed the ♦J, losing to the Queen. The defense cashed their Spades, but Dummy’s Diamonds were good. Declarer’s 9 tricks were a Spade, three Hearts, four Diamonds and a Club. Somebody goofed, who was it?

Yes, indeed, West was the goofster. We are always told “second hand low, third hand high” but (as usual) there are exceptions and this was one of them. When Declarer led that first round of Diamonds, West must hop up with the King! This alert play makes it impossible for Declarer to bring in the Diamonds for four tricks. If she takes the ♦A on the first round then East will duck the second round of Diamonds ... and if Declarer ducks the first round then the best she can do is to score three Diamonds, which is not enough.

It’s a recurring theme. Dummy has AJTxx or AT9xx or some such holding ... Dummy has no side-suit entries ... West has the Queen or the King ... and the winning play by West to play “second hand high” in order to jam Declarer’s communications.





**Please see schedule on page 1**

