

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 7 – July, 2021



## July Events



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

**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 – 99ers 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 6/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,317.53	Steve Babin
2	3,524.51	JoAnn Schroeder
3	3,446.63	Zack Freehill
4	3,299.73	Eunice Patton
5	2,867.28	Cindy Moore
6	2,433.45	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,340.67	Ann Schuyler
8	2,215.31	Lori Moore
9	1,800.82	Ron Emmett
10	1,546.06	Jeff Furler
11	1,506.06	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,136.50	Steve Wulfers
15	830.65	Dave Freehill
16	808.81	Stevie Joslin
17	792.89	Barbara Neuges
18	725.25	Ray Dostal
19	724.65	Sallie Boge
20	606.57	Fred Spitzzeri
21	601.38	Mary Tweedie
22	582.35	Mary Cralley
23	495.24	John Cralley
24	463.86	Larry Ziegler
25	392.29	Gene Byers

### Other players:

13,031.52	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,734.77	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,634.50	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,491.52	John Seng-Champaign
4,356.28	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,616.33	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,437.86	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,412.99	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,671.71	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.61	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,531.61	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,426.21	John Maloney-Champaign
2,213.79	Chuck Young-Peoria
1,990.88	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,670.12	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,354.53	Dan Bunde-Urbana
1,263.95	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,063.75	Bill Strauss-Urbana
823.74	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
792.11	Carole Miller-Champaign
755.15	Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
703.32	Melda Richardson-California
610.72	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
567.75	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
541.04	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
501.51	John Ford-Harvard,MA
449.50	Ron Sinn-Peoria
443.84	Connie Tucker-Champaign





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#1

Conventions are created to solve difficult bidding situations. One of these involves coping with interference over your 1NT opening bid. Take a look at this hand.

**SCORING: Matchpoints**

Hand #30  
 Dlr N  
 Vul N-  
 S

♠KQ3  
 ♥QJ4  
 ♦KQ6  
 ♣A1074

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♥	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

♠8765		♠42
♥1093		♥AK8765
♦7432		♦9
♣95		♣KQ63

♠AJ109  
 ♥2  
 ♦AJ1085  
 ♣J82

**\*Lebensohl**

**BIDDING:** This North-South partnership uses the Lebensohl convention to deal with interference over their 1NT openers. The immediate cue bid of 3H is a form of Stayman showing game going values, a four card spade suit, but NO heart stopper. If South had a heart stopper along with four spades, he would first bid 2NT to relay partner to 3C and then bid 3♥. If North did not hold a heart stopper, he would start bidding his suits up the line to find a fit.

**PLAY:** East led a low heart and North had an easy eleven tricks: four spades, one heart, five diamonds, and one club.

The Lebensohl convention has other uses so be sure to research it completely before adding it to your convention card.



#3

When establishing tricks declarer must always be aware of the "dangerous" opponent and play accordingly. Here is an example from a recent team game.

**SCORING: IMPs**

Hand	♠J943					
#32	♥104					
Dir E	♦J6					
Vul N-S	♣AK976					
♠87		♠A1062	West	North	East	South
♥KJ982		♥765	Pass		Pass	1NT
♦K9872		♦53	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
♣10		♣QJ32	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	♠KQ5					
	♥AQ3					
	♦AQ104					
	♣854					

**BIDDING:** North used the Stayman convention to check on a spade fit. With no luck there, his leap to 3NT was aggressive but this was a team event and he did not want to miss a vulnerable game.

**PLAY:** West led a low heart and dummy's ten won the first trick. Declarer saw a number of potential tricks but he could not allow East in to lead a second heart so the only safe suit to attack was diamonds. He led the jack from dummy won by West with the king. West had no good exit card and finally returned a diamond. It was now easy for South to knock out the spade ace to establish his ninth trick. He ended up with two spades, two hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs. At the other table, West led a diamond instead of a heart and the contract was defeated one trick.

Note that if South had first attacked either black suit, the defense would establish five tricks before declarer had nine.

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#4

If you are going to bid aggressively, you need to be a good declarer. Take a look at this hand.

SCORING: IMPs

Hand ♠J7  
#33 ♥Q75  
Dir E ♦K107  
Vul N-S ♣97653

♠A1063  
♥943  
♦J543  
♣82



♠K42  
♥AK10862  
♦A  
♣AKJ

♠Q985  
♥J  
♦Q9862  
♣Q104

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

**BIDDING:** This was the last hand in a team game and South felt they needed a good result to have a chance to win. North's bid of 2♦ was artificial and game forcing showing at least five high card points. After North raised his heart suit, South leaped to the slam hoping dummy would provide the right cards to cover his losers.

**PLAY:** West led a low diamond and declarer analyzed his position. He could play for the ace of spades to be in the East hand or look to the club suit for extra tricks. The club suit seemed to offer the best chance so he played the ace and king. The queen did not drop but the suit did divide 3-

2. Now he needed two entries to dummy so he hoped the opponents' hearts were divided 2-

2. However, when he played the ace of hearts the jack dropped so South led a second heart to dummy's seven. Next he discarded the club jack on the king of diamonds and ruffed a club to his hand with a high trump. He then led a heart to dummy picking up the last trump and discarded two spades on the good clubs. His only loser was a spade at the end.

Assuming the heart jack was a true play, declarer's line of play only needed the clubs to divide 3-2, a 68% chance. What a simple game this is. Also note the contract would have been much easier if West's opening lead had been in either black suit.

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

<b>2021/6/7</b>	<b>72.00%</b>	<b>Rick Kern &amp; Michelle Tomlin(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2021/5/31</b>	<b>73.26%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<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 71.11% 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



### #033 –THIRD HAND TRICKERY

“Third hand high” is common advice, and on this hand East plays “Third hand *extra high*” in order to fool Declarer.

	♠ KJ6 ♥ 3 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ 8743	
♠ 9854 ♥ Q652 ♦ 8764 ♣ A	<i>North</i>  West East  Declarer	♠ T73 ♥ AKJT9 ♦ QT2 ♣ Q2
	♠ AQ2 ♥ 874 ♦ 3 ♣ KJT965	

*E-W Vulnerable*

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
			1♥
2♣	2♥	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

On defense, in third hand, it's standard procedure to win the trick with the lowest card possible, that's the best way to let Partner know what is going on. So, when West leads a low Heart against 5♣, East would normally win that trick with the King. But this week's East decided to win the opening trick with the ♥A, supposedly denying possession of the King. He then returned the ♥T. What was East up to?

To answer that question put yourself in Declarer's shoes. From East's play to the first two Heart tricks Declarer deduces that East does not have the King (he would have played it at Trick 1), nor does he have the Jack (he would have returned it at Trick 2). So, it appears that East started with ♥AQT9x. Based on this logic Declarer will calculate that East has a maximum of 8 HCP outside the Club suit. Now, when Dummy leads a low Club from the board and East plays low, how should Declarer guess? East needs the ♠A for his opening bid and must have started with ♠A2 or ♠AQ2, so let's not blame Declarer if he guesses wrong and goes up with the ♠K, playing East for ♠A2.

If East plays more routinely, winning the ♥K on the first round and continuing with the Ace, then he no longer needs the ♠A to make up his opening bid. That being the case, Declarer will be more inclined to make the normal Club play of running the Eight on the first round, hoping for Q2 or AQ2 in the East hand (two chances) rather than A2 (only one chance). Nice deception, Mr. East!



#034 – A DUMMY REVERSAL

	♠ AQJ ♥ 875 ♦ 7532 ♣ QJ8	
♠ 87 ♥ AJT9 ♦ AK86 ♣ T92	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 642 ♥ K6 ♦ QJT94 ♣ 643
	♠ KT953 ♥ Q432 ♦ ♣ AK75	

None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

N-S stumble into 4♠ and West leads ♦A. Declarer can count 5 Spade tricks and 4 Clubs. That's 9, where's the 10<sup>th</sup>? A ruff in the "short hand" is a common ploy for an extra trick, but that won't work here, Dummy has no short side-suits. Any ideas?

Does ruffing the opening Diamond lead generate a 10<sup>th</sup> trick? No, that is a ruff in the long hand, that still leaves us with

only five trump tricks. But suppose that Declarer ruffs *three* Diamonds. Now he gets six trump tricks via Dummy's three high trumps plus three ruffs by Declarer (the long hand). In effect, Dummy becomes the master hand, the hand which will be used to draw the enemy trumps after Declarer has got his ruffs.

Therefore, the sequence of plays is: ruff the Diamond lead, cross to the ♠Q, ruff another Diamond, cross to the ♠J, ruff a third Diamond, cross to the ♠Q, draw the remaining enemy trump. This line works whenever trumps are 3-2.

The thing to remember here is that Declarer needs *three* ruffs for the Dummy Reversal to produce an extra trick. It's that third ruff which reduces Declarer's trumps to a shorter length than Dummy's. Actually, it would even be possible for Declarer to get a fourth ruff, but there are insufficient entries to take advantage of this. So, 10 tricks it is.



#035 –THE CROCODILE COUP

Bridge has a number of exotic “coups” and for the next few weeks we’ll look at some of them, starting with the aptly named Crocodile Coup.

	♠ KQT9 ♥ 8732 ♦ K6 ♣ 843	
♠ J63 ♥ J5 ♦ 932 ♣ KT976	North West East Declarer	♠ A87542 ♥ T64 ♦ QT7 ♣ J
	♠ ♥ AKQ9 ♦ AJ854 ♣ AQ52	

We’ll spare you the auction and just say that American many-time world champion Bob Hamman found himself in a poor 6♦ contract after East had overcalled Spades. You are sitting West, try playing this out looking at just the N-W hands.

You lead the Spade Three, Dummy plays the King, East the Ace and Declarer ruffs. Then a Diamond to Dummy’s King, a Diamond to Declarer’s Jack, and the ♦A. Partner follows with the Seven, Ten and Queen. With trumps drawn, Declarer now plays ♥A, ♥K, ♥Q, East playing the Four, Six, Ten.

Of course, while all this going on, you are busy counting the distribution, because that’s what successful defenders do. Declarer ruffed the first Spade so East is known to have

started with 6 Spades. Hearts? East played the Four and then the Six, and “low-high” shows an odd number, in this case three. Diamonds? East started with three of those also. That leaves just one Club with East, he started life with 6=3=3=1 distribution.

Next, Declarer leads a low Club from his hand and you must avoid the temptation to win this cheaply with the Nine! If you do, East will be forced to overtake with the Jack, and will have to lead a Spade (that’s all he has left), allowing Declarer’s Club losers to go away on Dummy’s Spades. Instead, you alertly squander the ♣K, swallowing Partner’s Jack, and you return the ♣T. Now Declarer never reaches Dummy’s Spades, and eventually loses another Club. Nice defense! When this deal was played in the 2006 World Championships, West was caught napping and missed that Crocodile Coup.



#036 – MORTON'S FORK

We continue our look at some of bridge's exotic coups, and this week it is the Morton's Fork, a play which offers an opponent a choice of evils. Here, the Fork allows Declarer to bring home the 6♥ contract.

	♠ Q7 ♥ 73 ♦ AK642 ♣ K743	
♠ A865 ♥ 654 ♦ Q98 ♣ QT5	North  West East  Declarer	♠ JT432 ♥ J8 ♦ JT73 ♣ 86
	♠ K9 ♥ AKQT92 ♦ 5 ♣ AJ92	

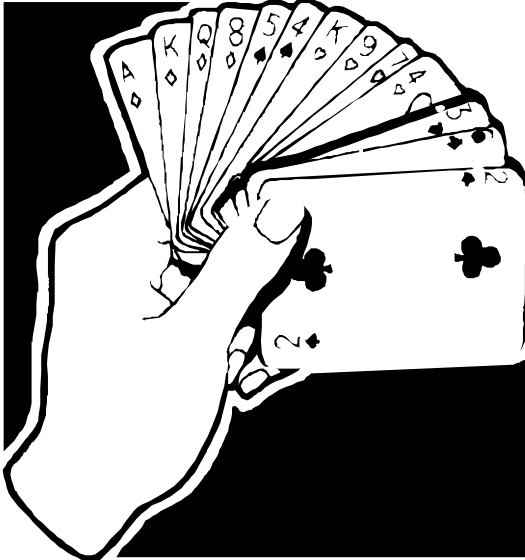
West leads a trump. As Declarer, what is your plan? Of course, if the Club finesse works then 12 tricks will be easy. Alternatively, it would be just grand if Dummy's long Diamond could be set up with a couple of ruffs, then the Club finesse would not be necessary. Alas, there are not enough Dummy entries for that. Or maybe there are! Yes, here is your chance to skewer the defense on a Morton's Fork, offering two losing options.

After drawing trumps, you cross to the ♦A and ruff a Diamond. Now you lead the ♠K and West will be impaled on one of these prongs:

*First Prong:* If West wins the ♠K with his Ace he manages to score his Spade, but not without cost. Now Dummy has an extra entry (in Spades) and you have the timing to ruff out the Diamonds. You no longer need the Club finesse, you have your 12 tricks via a Spade, 6 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 2 Clubs.

*Second Prong:* If West ducks the ♠K then you cross to the ♣K, cash Dummy's ♦K (pitching your remaining Spade), give up a Club, and romp home with 12 tricks. In this variation the defense never scores a Spade trick.

This hand required perfect timing! It was necessary to cash just one high Diamond and then ruff a Diamond before playing on Spades. If you had neglected to do that then you had no chance of getting the long Diamond established. And it would have been fatal to cash *both* Diamonds before playing on Spades, that would have rendered the fork's second prong inoperable. A very pretty deal!



**Please see schedule on page 1**

